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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 1 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1945 TEN CENTS

No Immediate Shift in Raw Stock Quotas

Will Continue Final 1944 Total Temporarily

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Industry consumers of raw stock have been authorized by the War Production Board to use motion picture film at the same rate as during the fourth quarter of 1944, until such time as the determination of specific quotas for the first quarter of 1945 shows whether any changes will be required in allocations.

Unable to set the allocations before the beginning of the quarter, Lincoln V. Burrows, chief of the WPB Photographic Section, sent letters of authorization to the individual companies Friday, permitting them to use up to 50 per cent of the amount allocated to them for the fourth 1944 quarter, during the first half of the

(Continued on page 6)

N. Y. Houses Sell $41,284,464 Bonds

Film houses in the New York area sold $41,284,464 in "E" bonds for the Sixth War Loan from Nov. 1 through Dec. 24, it was reported at the weekend. This total exceeds by $9,468,837 sales in the same area in the Fifth War Loan. Malcolm Kingsberg, industry area chairman, expects the last and final week to swell the amount considerably.

Total sales by boroughs and counties through Dec. 24 follow: Brooklyn, $15,396,257; Manhattan, $9,462,-

(Continued on page 3)

WB Completes Bonus Payments to 2,500

Warners on Friday completed distribution of bonuses, in accordance with usual company practice to about 2,500 employes in theatres, branches and the home office. Details of amounts distributed and basis of the payments were, however, unavailable for publication. Bonus plan for the theatre department was instituted in 1935.

Final checks went out to the branches last Thursday and Friday; benefits to theatres and the home office were distributed previously.

RKO has applied for Treasury approval of its bonus plan for theatre managers and assistants in the field.

N.Y. First-Runs Set New Marks for Seven Day Holiday Period

Seven-day holiday business from Christmas Day to New Year's Eve reached record proportions at most of New York's first-run theatres despite adverse weather conditions which included snow, rain and below freezing temperatures. In many instances theatres exceeded their receipts for a similar seven-day period in 1943, thereby establishing new all-time records.

The Radio City Music Hall established a new all-time high of almost $141,000 with "National Velvet" and a holiday stage show, opening its doors at 7:45 a.m. and giving five shows daily. This surpasses a $132,000 figure set with "Madame Curie" during the same seven-day period in 1943 and the $131,500 figure reached

(Continued on page 6)

Enroll 5,000,000 Seats for 'Dimes'

More than 5,000 theatres have pledged support to the March of Dimes drive, it was disclosed at the weekend by national chairman Nicholas M. Schenck, and nearly 5,000,000 seats have been enrolled to date. The reported figures represent a substantial increase over last year when that number of pledges were not received until some time after Jan. 1.

Delaware is the first state to report 100 per cent participation with 22,632 seats pledged to audience collections,

(Continued on page 3)

44 Legislatures To Meet in New Year

Forty-four state legislatures will meet in 1945, against only nine in 1944. 43 will meet in January and Florida will meet in May. The only states which are not scheduled to have legislative sessions are Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia and Kentucky.

All meetings are scheduled ones, with no special sessions set as yet. Possible new taxation on film admissions may be attempted in some of the meetings. Post-war relief, help to veterans, old age pensions and matters relative, may result in increased taxes.

FCC Radio Report Set for Jan. 15

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—The Federal Communications Commission will issue its proposed report on new allocations of the higher radio frequencies about Jan. 15 and will allow thirty days for the filing of briefs and arguments before finally adopting it, according to a weekend announcement.

At a later date, it was said, a second report will be issued, covering the frequencies between 10,000 and 25,000 kilocycles.

The reports will embody the conclusions reached by the Commission on the basis of the lengthy hearings held last Fall in response to a request from the State Department for a survey and recommendations on frequency allocations among the various services.

Chicago Loop Releases Speeded Up 25 Per Cent

CHICAGO, Jan. 1.—Release schedules of major company product have been improved by some 25 per cent in the Loop in the past three months, a check up reveals. The condition has been brought about by the cooperation of distributors and theatre operators who have consented not to hold over product unless turnaway business actually warrants such a practice, and by United Artists' action in releasing through independent first run houses when its major account, Balaban and Katz, cannot furnish playing time.

By agreement, B&K gives up UA pictures to the independent Oriental and others, when the circuit's own houses face crowded schedules. Under this arrangement, the Oriental has cleared "Song of the Open Road," "Three's A Family" and "Dark Waters." The RKO Palace played "Abroad With Two Yanks." B&K played "Since You Went Away" and will release "Guest in the House" at the Roosevelt the middle of January.

The two major films of Paramount's second block are now in the Loop, while three of RKO's first block of five films have already completed their first runs. Warner's "Hollywood Canteen" moved into the Roosevelt Saturday. Metro's specials are getting early showings at the United Artists, with "30 Seconds Over Tokyo" current, followed by "Meet Me in St. Louis." "Can't Help Singing" opened on time at the RKO Palace.

Golden Sees Rosy Postwar Era for Films

Commerce Dep't. Official Predicts Huge Expansion

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Curtailment of war production and consequent unemployment after the end of the war in Europe will have little or no effect on the motion picture industry, it was predicted today by Nathan D. Golden, chief of the motion picture unit of the Department of Commerce.

Nathan D. Golden

Although many industries foresee a slump, possibly short in duration, as war production closes down and peace-time operations

(Continued on page 6)

O'Brien Quits SEC; Will Aid Balaban

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Robert H. O'Brien, whose resignation as a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission was accepted by President Roosevelt Friday, will become special assistant to Barney Balaban, Paramount president.

The President paid tribute to O'Brien's work on the Commission, which he declared was an "outstanding example of public service" in ac-

(Continued on page 3)

Navy Chief Praises Industry Service

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 1.—Secretary of the Navy Forrestal expressed thanks to the industry at the weekend for its service to the Navy during 1944.

In a communication to Y. Frank Freeman, president of the Association of Motion Picture Producers, Forrestal said: "I should like to express through you to the studio heads and producers the Navy's appreciation of the four-star performance turned in by the industry during 1944. The Navy is not only thankful for the cooperation it received but also grate-

(Continued on page 6)

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Speaking Extras Claimed by SPU

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 1.—The battle between the Screen Players Union and the Screen Actors Guild for jurisdiction over extra players who speak lines, sing or perform stunts was intensified when the SPU membership, in special meeting late last week, made an official claim to control, citing the National Labor Relations Board as its authority. The action followed the receipt of a telegram from Y. Frank Freeman, on behalf of nine studios, declaring: "Faced with the dilemma of a conflict of jurisdiction between your organization and SAG, we have no choice but to continue to observe and perform our contract with SAG in relation to acting work."

SPU elected Harry Mayo president, Glenn Stephens vice-president, Lee Powell, secretary, Don Wayson assistant secretary and Mike Jeffers treasurer.

Agnew Sees 'Since' Grosses Near 'Wind's'

David O. Selznick's "Since You Went Away," released by United Artists, now looms as the greatest box office grosser since "Gone With the Wind," Neil F. Agnew, vice-president of Vanguard Films, said at the weekend.

"Based solely on the 1,405 engagements which the picture has played to date, which represent less than 10 per cent of its potential playing time in this country, box office receipts point to a new high for the year now ended," Agnew said.

20th-Fox Tax Group Fete Miss Kingston

Peggy Kingston, who resigned recently as secretary to Hal Horne, 20th Century-Fox director of advertising, publicity and exploitation, was given a farewell luncheon at the Hotel Wellington on Friday by her associates in the department. Those who attended were Kay O'Brien, who replaces Miss Kingston; Peggy Young, Irene Perlmutter, Sylvia Galitz, Paula Levin, Ruth Simon, Jeanette Sawyer, Helen Kramer, Ruth Galanter, Tarsi Tsimas and Kay Schancer.

New Goldwyn Offices

Samuel Goldwyn New York offices have been concentrated in the RKO Building. Goldwyn releases through RKO Radio. Headed by James Mulvey, vice president, and William Heineman, sales manager, the Goldwyn business offices had previously been located in the Godfrey Building, the editorial department was on the east side, and the publicity and advertising department was in the RKO Building.

Disney Names Levy

Charles Levy, former manager of the RKO advertising and publicity department's special feature service, has been appointed publicity director in New York for Walt Disney Productions, effective today. He succeeds Toni Spitzer, who resigned recently.

Personal Mention

HARRY COHN, Columbia president, arrived in New York yesterday from the Coast.

•

C. P. NEDLEY, M-G-M branch manager, was in Salt Lake City for a short time before Christmas, returning to his home in Omaha for the holidays. He will return to Salt Lake City as branch manager, Jan. 11.

•

JERRY MASON, executive editor of *This Week* magazine, unable to get hotel accommodations in Hollywood on his current visit there, has taken up residence on the Columbia studio lot.

•

LOU IRWIN, Hollywood agent, is in New York on a combination business and holiday trip.

•

ARTHUR W. KELLY of Eagle-Lion Films has arrived in Hollywood from New York.

•

BETTY ASHER of the M-G-M studio publicity department is in New York.

•

MILT SILVER is in Beth Israel Hospital here for a physical checkup.

MAX MILDER, Warner managing director in England, is in New York for home office conferences. He will return to London in late January.

•

LT. GEORGE F. PUTNAM, former NBC newscaster and 20th Century-Fox Movietone News commentator, now liaison officer to the Armed Forces Radio Service, has been ordered to the Pacific from Washington to make a survey of the radio needs of Marine Corps units.

•

CPL. HERMAN M. ADDISON, former manager of Schine's Paramount, Glens Falls, N. Y., attached to headquarters of the 13th Field Artillery Brigade in France, is the recipient of the Croix de Guerre.

•

ROBERT HAWKINSON, assistant foreign manager for RKO, will leave sometime next month for Latin-America.

•

RALPH H. CLARK, Warner Canadian manager, has returned to Toronto from New York.

Century Makes Five Personnel Changes

Five changes in Century Circuit personnel have been announced by Joseph R. Springer, general theatre manager. Saul Renick, a recent dischargee from the Armed Forces, has been named assistant manager of the Avalon; Phil Seed has been transferred from the Avalon to the Nostrand as assistant manager; Irwin Auerbach, appointed assistant manager of the Elm. Auerbach was formerly assistant manager at the Nostrand. Milton Freund, former assistant manager at the Elm, has been transferred to the Lincoln in the same capacity, and Walter Robertson, formerly of the Linden, has been sent to the Floral as assistant manager.

WB Appoints Kiely Manager at Toronto

TORONTO, Jan. 1.—Grattan Kiely has been promoted from the sales staff to branch manager at the Warner office here, succeeding I. 'Babe' Coval, who will be assigned to a Latin-American post under Wolfe Cohen.

Para. Prepays Million

Paramount Pictures prepaid on Friday the $1,000,000 of its funded debt which matures July 1, 1945. This is a portion of the $6,000,000 borrowed in July, 1944, when the company took into its consolidated statement the Paramount Building in Times Square, and paid off an outstanding mortgage on the property of an approximately similar amount.

400 'Tokyo' Bookings

M-G-M has 400 bookings on "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" for one week stands throughout the country, it was reported on Friday.

To Choose New WAC Distribution Head

A new distributor chairman of the War Activities Committee is expected to be designated when the distributor division holds its first meeting of the new year here tomorrow. Although the group met at the weekend with George J. Schaefer, WAC chairman, on several other matters, it is understood that the selection of the new chairman to succeed Ned E. Depinet, RKO Radio president, was not among the matters discussed.

New chairmen for the foreign manager division and the advertising and publicity division also are yet to be selected.

Ohio Storms Delay Film Deliveries

CINCINNATI, Jan. 1.—Severe storms in this area resulted in considerable delay in the delivery of film at the holiday weekend. Though trucks continued to operate, highway conditions slowed up the arrival of films, necessitating in several instances emergency substitutions in programs.

6 to Jaeger's Staff

Six additional supervisors have been named to the staff of Arthur Jaeger, in charge of Ross Federal field supervisors, to operate from various Ross branches. Jaeger, former U. S. marshal, and Joseph Quinn, former FBI investigator, are in charge of the augmented field force.

Larry Kent to England

Larry Kent, 20th-Fox representative on the Gaumont-British circuit board of directors, is en route to England to take up his new duties. Prior to his appointment, Kent was executive assistant to Spyros Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president.

Cummings to Open Auditors Meet Today

Alan F. Cummings, in charge of M-G-M exchange operations, will open the annual meeting of field auditors of the company at the Hotel Astor today with a brief welcoming address. The session will continue through the week with at least 25 executives and their assistants from the home office in attendance at various times.

NEW YORK THEATRES

"ELABORATE AND LIVELY."
—World-Telegram
VERA HRUBA RALSTON
Lake Placid Serenade
featuring
Eugene Palette
Robert Livingston
RAY NOBLE and his Orchestra
Vera Vague
Stephanie Bachelor
HARRY OWENS and his Royal Hawaiians
and
ROY ROGERS
(as Guest Star)
REPUBLIC THEATRE
B'way, Bet. 51st & 52nd Sts.
A Republic Picture

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50TH STREET & 6TH AVENUE
M-G-M's
"NATIONAL VELVET"
MICKEY ROONEY
DONALD CRISP - ELIZABETH TAYLOR
JACKIE JENKINS - REGINALD OWEN
and THE MUSIC HALL'S
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
Greer GARSON
Walter PIDGEON
in M-G-M's
'MRS. PARKINGTON'
IN PERSON
WINGY MANONE
and ORCH
Extra!
Radio's Henry Aldrich
Dickie JONES

BING CROSBY
BETTY HUTTON
SONNY TUFTS
In Person
Woody HERMAN
and His Orchestra
ALL-STAR REVUE
"Here Come the Waves"
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
HEDY LAMARR
GEORGE BRENT - PAUL LUKAS
"Experiment Perilous"
An RKO Picture

20TH CENTURY-FOX PRESENTS
A. J. Cronin's
"THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM"
Continuous Performances
RIVOLI
B'way & 49th St.

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Film Stock Trading Light in November

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1.—A series of sales in which Albert Warner disposed of 6,500 shares of Warner Bros. common, leaving him with 220,950 shares, represented the major operation in film stocks by company officers and directors in November, it was reported over the weekend by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The only other November transactions shown in the Commission's monthly summary were in Monogram common, where Samuel Broidy bought 1,499 and sold 500 shares, increasing his holdings to 7,799 shares; Arthur G. Bromberg bought 900 shares through Monogram Southern Exchange, increasing its holdings to 21,539 shares; William B. Hurlbut bought 200 shares through Monogram Pictures of Michigan, to give it 1,600 shares; Herman Rifkin bought 1,867 shares through Monogram Pictures, Inc., giving it 19,492 shares; Norton V. Ritchey bought 100 shares for a total of 4,667 shares, and Charles W. Trampe bought 400 shares through Monogram Midwest Film Company, which holds 2,700 shares.

Columbia Report

A delayed report on Columbia showed that in September Jack Cohn exercised his rights to exchange 2,000 common warrants held through the Robert Cohn trust for an equal number of shares of common stock. In the same month, Abraham Schneider disposed of 25 shares of common stock by gift, leaving him with 1,682 shares.

Reports of the holdings of persons becoming officers or directors showed that Samuel Schneider held no Warner Bros. stocks when he became an officer of the company on Nov. 28.

O'Brien Quits SEC; Will Aid Balaban

(*Continued from page* 1)

cepting the resignation with "great regret." O'Brien stated that he was resigning for personal reasons.

O'Brien joined the commission in September, 1943, as attorney in the registration division, later becoming assistant director of the division. Subsequently he became assistant general counsel, associate director and director of the public utilities division and in February, 1942, was appointed a commissioner by President Roosevelt.

Balaban stated on Friday that O'Brien, starting in his new post today, will act as liaison between Paramount officers and the company president, particularly between the Paramount secretary and general counsel, Austin Keough and the vice-president and studio head, Y. Frank Freeman, on the one hand, and Balaban on the other. O'Brien also will represent Paramount at organizational meetings such as MPPDA board meetings, and other industry and special meetings and conferences involving Paramount.

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High Pay—Excellent Opportunity
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$26,000 Raised for Catholic Charities

The 1944 Catholic Charities Campaign of Greater New York raised almost $26,000 for the Archdiocese within the industry, or about 15 per cent more than in 1943, according to John J. O'Connor, Universal vice-president, who was chairman of the industry's participation in the drive.

The industry was among the top three industries in New York in the drive, which closed Saturday.

N. Y. Houses Sell $41,284,464 Bonds

(*Continued from page* 1)

962; Bronx, $6,420,150; Queens, $5,635,393; Nassau, $1,124,785; Westchester, $1,119,849; Suffolk, $993,175; Sullivan, Ulster, Rockland, Dutchess and Lower Orange combined, $671,443, and Richmond, $460,450.

Loew's Bond Sales Exceeded B. O. 'Take'

Loew's Theatres throughout the country have sold in excess of $18,000,000 of "E" bonds during the Sixth Drive, a sum which exceeded receipts at the box office of the theatres during the period of the drive, it was revealed by the company at the weekend. Actual counted receipts up to and including Dec. 25 show $16,142,795 in "E" bonds sold, with an additional $2,000,000 taken in up to Dec. 27.

The final total will see Loew's over $4,000,000 ahead of its Fifth Bond drive sales total. So far, the Pitkin, Brooklyn, tops all theatres in the circuit with over $1,000,000 sold. The figures are for 141 theatres, of which 70 are in the Metropolitan area.

Theatre Authority Collected $525,577

The Theatre Authority in which the Screen Actors Guild, Motion Picture Relief Fund, the I.T.O.A. of N. Y. and individuals from the industry are participants, to control the appearances of personalities in benefit performances, collected $525,577 in a 10-year period, Alan Corelli, executive secretary of the Theatre Authority disclosed in a report on the 10th anniversary of the founding of the organization at the weekend.

Of this amount, the report disclosed, $329,902 has been allocated to various charity groups and $24,409 is held in trust on the West Coast for indigent actors. Where a benefit charges admission and members of any of the participating actor groups perform, 15 per cent of the ticket sales to that particular function are paid to the Theatre Authority for reallocation of its component parts for the relief of indigent actors.

WB to Show 'Burma'

Warners will hold national tradeshowings of "Objective Burma" on Monday, Jan. 22. The film is tentatively scheduled for release about the middle of February.

Enroll 5,000,000 Seats for 'Dimes'

(*Continued from page* 1)

according to a wire from chairman Joseph DeFiore of Wilmington. Last year Delaware turned in $17,360 for 22,027 seats, or $76.06 per seat.

Printing of 13,000 trailers, starring Greer Garson, will begin this week at laboratories on both the East and West Coasts, and National Screen Service branch managers at 31 key spots are cooperating with state chairmen.

W. Pa. 'Dimes' Group Names Maloney, Others

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 1.—John Maloney, Loew's district manager here, was unanimously elected local distribution chairman for the 1945 March of Dimes drive in Western Pennsylvania at a committee meeting held recently in the office of M. A. Silver, Western Pennsylvania state chairman.

Morris Finkel, president of the independent exhibitors, was named assistant chairman to work with Silver, and Harry Greenman, manager of Loew's Penn Theatre, was appointed head of a committee to cover key downtown theatres.

Illinois Allied Will Aid 'Dimes' Drive

CHICAGO, Jan. 1.—Allied of Illinois' 150 member theatres are pledged to support the forthcoming March of Dimes Drive, it was announced by president Jack Kirsch, who is also Illinois co-chairman of the drive. Kirsch is also enlisting the aid of non-member exhibitors, circuits and independents to make collections during the drive.

Meyer Hollywood Chairman

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 1.—The Permanent Charities Committee has appointed Fred S. Meyer chairman of the Hollywood industry infantile paralysis campaign. He set a record in collections as chairman last year.

Invite Ideas for Red Cross Drive

Publicity committee of the 1945 industry Red Cross War Fund Week, March 15 to 21, is asking showmen to submit ideas and stunts to be included in the 16-page press book now in preparation.

Suggestions should be mailed not later than Monday, Jan. 8, to S. Barret McCormick and Harry Mandel, national publicity directors, at the RKO home office.

U. S. Trailer Appeals For Maritime Men

The War Shipping Administration released last week through Fox Movietone, M-G-M, Universal and Pathe newsreels, a United States Maritime Service recruiting trailer which will be exhibited nationally for two weeks. The sequence, designed to help relieve a current maritime manpower emergency, urges all men between 17 and 50 to join up for service aboard the ships that deliver war goods. Personal pleas also are being made from theatre stages.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Jan. 1

ANN HARDING has been signed for a featured role in "Those Endearing Young Charms," which Bert Granet will produce for RKO . . . Jane Frazee will have the feminine lead in Columbia's "Ten Cents a Dance" . . . Republic has signed Victor McLaglen to a term deal whereby he will make a number of pictures for that studio next year . . . The first Monogram film to star Acquanetta will be "Jungle Queen," based on an original by William Lively. Sam Katzman and Jack Dietz will produce.

•

Seymour Nebenzal states that he intends proceeding with a remake of "Mayerling," for which he says he holds sole remake rights. Nebenzal adds that under his arrangement with Mary Pickford, he will be the sole producer . . . Martin Garralaga has been cast for an important comedy role in "Masquerade in Mexico," Paramount's romantic drama starring Dorothy Lamour and Arturo de Cordova.

•

Robert Buckner will visit New York shortly after Jan. 1 to confer with Herman Shumlin, who will direct "Confidential Agent" for Warners . . . Steve Sekely, who will produce and direct "The Healer" for Republic, has left for Mexico City to film background exteriors. . . . Jo Carol Dennison has had her option lifted by 20th Century-Fox.

•

Carl Esmond has been assigned a top role in M-G-M's current production, "Her Highness and the Bellboy," which stars Hedy Lamarr and Robert Walker . . . Joyce Reynolds, who played the title role in "Janie," has had her Warner contract renewed . . . Alan Jones will star in Universal's comedy "Have a Heart."

Wheeler Seeks Video Licensing Control

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Senator Burton K. Wheeler, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee, will oppose the issuance of television licenses on a first come, first served basis, he revealed in a statement here at the weekend. Pointing out that this practice, followed in the early days of standard broadcasting, would result in a concentration of licenses in metropolitan centers to the disadvantage of outlying regions, the Senator said: "It seems to me that we should be studying right now the issuance of television wave lengths on a geographical basis for allocations."

Sponsor of a broad radio regulatory bill which never came to a vote in the last session of Congress, Senator Wheeler said any new legislation should be based on the principle that radio was a public service supported by advertising and not primarily an advertising medium. He expressed the belief that the Federal Communications Commission already had the right to pass on the re-sale of licenses and added that broadcasting should be forced to grant equal time for discussing both sides of any controversial questions.

AVAST!

No Record Is Safe!

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The Prin

with VIRGINIA MAYO and WALTER SLEZA

Screen Play by Don Hartman, Melville Shave

SIGN THAT PLEDGE! MARCH OF DIMES! (JAN. 25-31)

AMONG THE CAPTIVES...
CHICAGO . . . BUFFALO . . . LOS ANGELES
CINCINNATI...SAN FRANCISCO...DAYTON
KANSAS CITY . . . SALT LAKE CITY
ATLANTA . . . NEW ORLEANS . . . OMAHA
TAMPA . . . READING . . . HARRISBURG
CHARLESTON...ROCHESTER...SYRACUSE
SIOUX CITY
GOLDWYN presents
B HOPE in
ess and the Pirate
in TECHNICOLOR
LTER BRENNAN · VICTOR McLAGLEN
Directed by David Butler
Associate Producer · Don Hartman

N.Y. First-Runs Set New Marks for Seven Day Holiday Period

(Continued from page 1)

with "Top Hat" during a week which included Labor Day in 1935. The regular second week's gross ending last Wednesday night reached $130,000.

The Roxy with "Winged Victory" and a stage show was close behind the Music Hall on the seven-day period with $138,000 but below the $140,300 for the same period in 1943 registered with "The Gang's All Here."

The Paramount which brought in "Here Come the Waves" and a stage show featuring Woody Herman and his band last Wednesday crashed through to an outstanding $120,000 for a seven-day period, including two days of the preceding show, with a near record $125,000 expected for the first full weak of "Here Come the Waves" ending tonight.

'Singing' Sets Record

A new all-time high of $51,000 was recorded on the first week of "Can't Help Singing" at the Criterion where the week officially started on Christmas Day and ended New Year's Eve.

The Capitol scored a heavy $87,000 with "Music for Millions" and a stage show featuring Tommy Dorsey and band during the seven-day period. The Strand recorded $75,000 for "Hollywood Canteen" and its Lionel Hampton and band stage presentation. "The Keys of the Kingdom" opened big at the Rivoli last Friday and almost $35,000 was recorded before the house opened its doors yesterday. "The Sign of the Cross" drew a terrific $29,000 for the Victoria on the seven days; the Astor hit a grand $41,000 with "Meet Me in St. Louis"; and the Globe scored a heavy $32,000 with "Tomorrow the World." Similar increases were recorded all the way down the line to give Broadway generally one of its biggest seven-day periods of business in history.

Sunset Prod. Formed To Make 16mm. Films

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 1.—Russell Wade, RKO Radio contract player, has formed Sunset Productions, Inc., to produce a series of 16 mm. five-reelers similar to Wade's "Sundown Riders," color Western, which has played church and school circuits. The new company plans to extend its activities after the war.

Navy Chief Praises Industry Service

(Continued from page 1)

ful for the entertainment, both in personal appearances and in pictures for overseas use, by the people of the motion picture world."

Promising to transmit the message, Freeman replied: "We realize we do little in comparison with what the men on the fighting fronts do for us. We are at your service at any time we can be of help."

Filmack Gives Bonuses

CHICAGO, Jan. 1. — Irving Mack, head of Filmack Trailer Co., presented each of his employes with a bonus check at the company's Christmas party held at Filmack headquarters here.

Nathan Golden Sees Rosy Postwar Era for Films

(Continued from page 1)

get under way, Golden said, in evaluating the situation, the film industry appears destined to go into an era of expansion to catch up with the development which normally would have occurred during the past three years.

As many as 1,000 theatres of 800 to 1,000 seats, costing between $75,000,000 and $100,000,000, may be built when materials now critical become freely available, he said, and the programmed expansion of Hollywood studio facilities will involve another $20,000,000 to $30,000,000.

Golden foresaw the possible extensive use of prefabricated theatres, plans for which now are complete in all details, and, with the relaxation of gasoline rationing, an increase in the drive-in type of theatre, estimating the projects of this type, many of which now are closed, will increase from 100 to 300 within a short time after the war.

Expressing the belief that exhibitors will not be adversely affected by unfavorable postwar industrial and employment conditions, Golden suggested that attendance might well increase with more leisure time available to many people who, during full-speed war-production days, could not find the time to attend the theatre.

"Then, too," he said, "the singular quality of the films produced during the past few years will also help to maintain the currently high level of movie attendance of 100,000,000 admissions weekly. Finally, past experience indicates that the movies are one of the last things people give up. Moreover, the accumulated savings now in the hands of the public will act as an assurance of continued attendance at the movie theatres."

While he freely forecast continued prospertiy for the motion picture industry in 1945, there was one field into which Golden refused to venture. To what extent television will become available to a waiting audience this year, he said, is anyone's guess.

'Victory' Sets Pace At San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 1.—Christmas week at the box office here was fairly brisk with houses reporting good showings over the holiday. "Winged Victory" picked up a smart $32,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Dec. 27-29:

"Three Is a Family" (UA)
"Reckless Age" (Univ.)
ORPHEUM—(2,440) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,800. (Average: $15,000).
"Dark Waters" (UA)
"My Gal Loves Music" (Univ.)
UNITED ARTISTS — (1,200) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,100. (Average: $14,500).
"My Pal, Wolf" (RKO)
GOLDEN GATE — (2,850) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $29,000. (Average: $27,000).
"Lights of Santa Fe" (Rep.)
WARFIELD — (2,680) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days. Stage: Vaudeville. Gross: $24,500. (Average: $25,000).
"Till We Meet Again" (Para.)
"Hail the Conquering Hero" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,748) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $20,000).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
"Adventures of Kitty O'Day" (Mono.)
FOX—(5,000) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $32,000. (Average: $28,000).
"Lost in a Harem" (M-G-M)
"The Man in Half Moon Street" (Para.)
STATE—(2,308) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days. Moveover from Fox. Gross: $15,500. (Average: $13,000).
"The Doughgirls" (WB)
"National Barn Dance" (Para.)
ST. FRANCIS—(1,400) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $12,000).

Karol to New CBS Post

John J. Karol, CBS assistant sales manager for the past year and market research counsel since 1939, has been named network sales manager effective today, William C. Gittinger, CBS vice-president in charge of sales, announced at the weekend.

Levey Signs Scott

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 1.—Jules Levey has signed Randolph Scott for his film "Homesteaders," in color, the first of two films he will produce in 1945 for United Artists release.

'Kismet,' 'Shadows' Share Indpls. Lead

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 1. — "Kismet" and "Shadows In the Night" at Loew's were tops in box office receipts here last week with $15,000 expected. Most other houses show an upward trend in attendance.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Dec. 26-30:

"Tall in the Saddle" (RKO)
"Atlantic City" (Rep.)
CIRCLE—(2,800) (32c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $11,800).
"And Now Tomorow" (Para.)
INDIANA—(1,200) (32c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $11,600).
"Sing, Neighbor, Sing" (Rep.)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (60c) 4 days. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $5,000).
"Kismet" (M-G-M)
"Shadows in the Night" (Col.)
LOEW'S—(2,800) (35c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $11,500).
"My Buddy" (Rep.)
"Sign of the Cross" (Para.)
LYRIC—(2,000) (32c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $4,900).

China Favorable for Postwar U. S. Films

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—American films which have long been popular in Chinese coastal cities, are expected to find a profitable market in that country after war, as many new regions have been introduced to films as the result of the war shift in population to Free China. Additionally, new and profitable markets are foreshadowed in Manchuria, Formosa and Korea, according to a report in the *Foreign Commerce Weekly*, published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Isolation of China's free areas, as well as deterioration and loss of equipment, has reduced the local industry to two small Government-controlled studios of limited output. Projection equipment is much in need of repair, the report says.

Reports from occupied areas indicate that film production under Japanese supervision in Shanghai has decreased to about four pictures a month. Theatres in Shanghai and other coastal cities continue to operate, however, with poor facilities.

No Immediate Raw Stock Quota Shift

(Continued from page 1)

new period. It was made clear, however, that these instructions are merely tentative, designed to prevent any interference with operations, and that the authorizations may be cancelled within the next few days if the final allocation schedules for the quarter show that any cut from present levels is necessary.

If any further curtailment in the use of raw stock is ordered, its impact will fall squarely upon the features and shorts and no cut is contemplated in allocations for newsreels, it was learned. The question of newsreels was exhaustively discussed during the various meetings between Burrows and the representatives of the military and other film-using Government agencies, and it is understood it was agreed that the news pictures are so valuable to the Government in disseminating information regarding the war effort, that they should be protected against further restriction in length.

Newsreel Raw Stock Will Not Be Cut

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1. — Army, Navy, OWI and other Government officials are agreed that raw stock difficulties should not be permitted to affect newsreels, and it is not likely that shortages of film will result in reducing newsreel length below its present 750 feet, Claude R. Collins, Washington representative of the WAC newsreel division, said on Friday.

In a year-end statement, Collins pointed out that, "Never before have so many events occurred within one 12-month period, and never before in newsreel history have so many outstanding pictures of history in the making beeen reflected on film." A possible serious raw stock shortage is the only threat to the presentation of these pictures to the public, he said, but the situation may be relieved when film manufacturing plants in Europe come into operation.

MGM Exploiteers to Be Here January 8

J. E. Watson of Cincinnati, Charles C. Deardourff, Cleveland, and Norman Linz, Indianapolis, will be the first three M-G-M exploiteers to arrive for a week's home office visit, under the recently announced plan of Howard Dietz, vice-president and director of advertising, publicity and exploitation, and William R. Ferguson, director of exploitation, of calling the field men in for home office conferences in groups.

The three men will arrive Jan. 8 and will be followed by the other field exploiteers at a rate of three at a time.

Claude Frederick Dies

GREENFIELD, Mass., Jan. 1.—Claude E. Frederick, manager of the Garden Theatre here for over 10 years, died of a heart attack in his office Dec. 28. Born in St. John, N. B., he began his career as a vaudeville performer, was former manager of the Olympic in New Haven, and also had managed the Capitol in Pittsfield. He is survived by a widow and two children.

TO EXHIBITORS OF AMERICA:

Again we are asked by the President of the United States to perform a needed, public service. Every motion picture theatre in America is asked to enlist in the 1945 March of Dimes (January 25-31).

You did a magnificent job last year. You poured into the National Foundation For Infantile Paralysis and its local chapters over $4,667,000! Some 9,000,000 seats participated—and averaged 54c per seat!

The President, the nation and your committee are grateful for the splendid results. You put your hearts into the drive; the results proved that. And the moviegoing public responded generously—and respected and honored you for your part in the crusade to save American children.

In 1944 savage epidemics swept many states. Great sums of money—thanks to you—were ready to be rushed to the assistance of stricken areas.

Now we must replenish those polio war-chests.

In the 1945 March of Dimes we'd like to have 17,000 theatres with 11,000,000 seats—and a $5,000,000 goal would not be impossible.

If you haven't already done so, please rush in your pledge. Just sign your name and theatre address to this coupon and mail it in.

NAME_____

THEATRE ADDRESS_____

GREER GARSON APPEAL TRAILER • TWO STYLES ONE-SHEETS • CAMPAIGN BOOK GRATIS • WHEN YOU SEND YOUR PLEDGE TO SUITE 188, HOTEL ASTOR, N. Y. C.

YOU HAVE A DATE WITH A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE!

The Screen's First Great Dramatic Musical!

COLUMBIA PICTURES *presents*

Rita HAYWORTH

TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT

WITH JANET BLAIR · LEE BOWMAN

MARC PLATT · LESLIE BROOKS

in TECHNICOLOR

Screen Play by Lesser Samuels and Abem Finkel · Songs by Jule Styne

COLUMBIA PICTURES

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 2 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1945 TEN CENTS

DO NOT REMOVE

20,000,000-Ft. Raw Stock Cut This Quarter

Industry's WPB Quota Around 300 Million Feet

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The motion picture industry will have approximately 20,000,000 feet less raw stock for use this quarter than it had in the last three months of 1944, it was indicated here tonight by tentative figures reached by Lincoln V. Burrows, chief of the War Production Board photographic division, in conferences with representatives of the Federal raw stock claimant agencies.

It now appears probable, Burrows disclosed today, that the industry will receive slightly more than 300,000,000 linear feet for the quarter.

Whether the cut is to be applied equally among the companies or graded on their ability to bear a reduction will be worked out with the industry

(*Continued on page 3*)

British Raw Stock Crisis

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The carbon and raw stock situations are causing the British government extreme concern. The carbon shortage, now serious, promises to become critical in March, when stocks will probably be exhausted.

The Treasury is being urged to suspend temporarily the present prohibitive import duty of approximately 100

(*Continued on page 3*)

Republic Sale Meets Start Here Jan. 8

Republic will hold the first of its Winter sales meetings at the New York Athletic Club, Jan. 8-10. Other meetings will be at the Blackstone Hotel, Chicago, Jan. 11-13; and at the studio in Hollywood, Jan. 22-24. J. R. Grainger, president, will arrive here by plane from California today for the meetings.

Herbert J. Yates, chairman of the board, will attend the New York and Chicago meetings, and return to the Coast on Jan. 15. Division managers will attend the Chicago session.

Film Stocks Increase to $919,214,486

Motion picture shares listed on the New York Stock Exchange rose $127,521,739 in market value during 1944 to their highest levels in years as a result of a general advance in the market and favorable conditions affecting individual film issues.

Total market valuation of the 15 film issues currently listed on the exchange stood at $919,214,486 at the end of 1944, compared with $791,692,747 at 1943's close.

The advance in the general stock list, which saw the value of all stocks listed on the exchange enhanced by

(*Continued on page 12*)

Justice Dept. Checks Production Process

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 2.—The West Coast branch of the anti-trust division of the Department of Justice is now in the fourth month of a check-up of operational processes of the production branch, MOTION PICTURE DAILY learned today.

Quietly, and insisting its objective is solely to acquire basic information, Department of Justice agents are inquiring into processes and procedure

(*Continued on page 3*)

$10,000 for Calling Checker Peeping Tom

A jury in Coeur D'Alene, Ida., has awarded Ralph V. Browder, Ross Federal checker, $10,000 in a suit Browder brought against Fulton Cook and his wife, owners of the Bungalo Theatre, St. Maries, Ida., for calling the checker a 'stool pigeon, a peeping Tom and Jekyll and Hyde,' the company said here yesterday.

Browder has been a regular Ross checker for many years and is also local postmaster. Browder originally sued for $25,000.

A. J. Law Dies of Heart Attack Here

Albert J. Law, executive secretary and general counsel of the Southern California Theatre Owners Association, was stricken by a heart attack on Monday in New York and died yesterday in St. Luke's Hospital here.

Law had been in New York since last Thursday conferring with home office distribution executives on a plan for conciliating trade practice complaints prior to their submission to arbitration. He had planned to remain in New York throughout this week in order to complete his conferences on the conciliation plan with all sales executives, from whom he hoped to obtain approval for making the plan effective nationally, as well as in the Southern California area.

Law conferred with Department of

(*Continued on page 11*)

Hollywood Faces Postwar Market Challenge: Rose

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 2.—Hollywood will face a strong challenge in the post-war world market, greater than anyone here or in "any other world film capital" has imagined, David E. Rose, Paramount managing director for Great Britain, said on his arrival here today.

Hollywood can do this successfully, he said, if production puts its house in order, settling present problems now, so film making for vastly expanded world audiences can be started immediately after the war.

Citing a 63 per cent increase in the number of theatre goers in Great Britain since 1939, Rose said millions of men and women in Allied war services have become film minded, and

(*Continued on page 11*)

Late Shows Draw Heavily in Chi.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—Balaban and Katz has inaugurated daily midnight shows in the United Artists, following experimentations at the Apollo where the last feature now starts at one a. m. Essaness' Woods, next door, has been operating to six a. m. for months, with business consistently good.

The trend to late shows has mushroomed due to shifts in local defense plants.

Rules Canada Courts Cannot Control Films

U. S. Significance Seen In High Court Ruling

TORONTO, Jan. 2.—In a decision viewed here in high exhibition quarters as having significance for the American as well as the Canadian film industry, the Court of Kings Bench at Montreal has upheld United Amusement Corp. in a judgment against Kent Theatres, Ltd., decreeing that legal courts had no jurisdiction over the rental or exhibition of motion pictures which, under the Federal War Measures Act are controlled by the administrator of services of the Federal Wartime Prices and Trade Practices Board.

In this decision the highest court in

(*Continued on page 11*)

$200,000 'U' Radio Budget

Universal has budgeted $200,000 to promote its top films by radio duriing 1945, Maurice A. Bergman, Eastern advertising-publicity head told MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday. The company spent $120,000 for film promotions in radio in 1944 and $60,000 in 1943.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY reported last Thursday the growing preference

(*Continued on page 3*)

Healy Named Aide To Austin Keough

William Healy has been named administrative assistant to Austin C. Keough, Paramount vice-president and general counsel, it was learned here yesterday. Healy, who is an attorney, will assist Keough on company administration matters.

Healy, a graduate of Fordham Uni-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Reviewed Today

Reviews of "Under Western Skies," "The Missing Juror" and "Saddle Leather Law" appear on page 6; "Sheriff of Las Vegas," page 11.

Personal Mention

J. ROBERT RUBIN, Loew's vice-president and general counsel, will leave for Phoenix, Arizona, today for a vacation.

•

ELEANOR MULCHRONE PIRSCHEL, secretary to W. RAY JOHNSTON, Monogram president, will return to the company's coast studio today after a six-months' absence during which time she became the mother of a baby girl.

•

SGT. NAT GARTSMAN, with MORT BLUMENSTOCK's staff at Warners before entering the armed forces, is in New York on furlough after 28 months of service which took him around the world.

•

AL HEMSING, acting head of the non-theatrical operation of the Office of War Information overseas motion picture bureau, was married last week to ESTHER DAVIDSON.

•

LYNN FARNOL left New York yesterday for Hollywood to take over the post of West Coast advertising and publicity director for Sam Goldwyn Productions.

•

HELEN O'DEA, secretary to HARRY BUCKLEY, United Artists executive, will be married this morning at St. Elizabeth's Church to THOMAS MULLEN of the U. S. Navy.

•

HARRY N. BLAIR, PRC's Eastern advertising and publicity director, is visiting Philadelphia and Wilmington on business.

•

SGT. GENE ARNEEL, formerly of the MOTION PICTURE DAILY editorial staff here, and who was wounded in Italy, is in New York on furlough.

•

SIDNEY S. KULICK, Eastern district sales manager for PRC, will leave today on a three-weeks' trip to Buffalo, Scranton, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

•

JACK KIRBY, Paramount district manager in Atlanta, has returned to his desk from a two-months' rest at Miami Beach.

•

H. M. BESSEY, vice president of Altec Service Corp., has returned to New York from Boston and Philadelphia.

•

STANLEY HAND, Altec representative, has returned to New York from the Philadelphia district.

•

AL KOLITZ, RKO branch manager in Cleveland, and his family spent the New Year holiday in Cincinnati.

•

NORMAN ELSON, vice president of Trans-Lux Theatres Corp., left last night for Washington.

•

LEO J. MCCARTHY, PRC's general sales manager, will be in Cleveland the remainder of this week.

•

STEVE TRILLING, assistant to JACK L. WARNER, will leave for the Coast today.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, Jan. 2

PICTURES have been made, titled and then re-titled before, and that's a process hardly new. For some reason not readily traceable to its lair, a particular interest appears to have been kindled over a title incident in which RKO is the principal. The attraction, once known as "Farewell, My Lovely" and reviewed and initially advertised under that monicker, has been changed to "Murder, My Sweet" with seeming abruptness.

The facts are the switch was not abrupt, nor was it as sudden as appears. The history behind the move is another reflection of the reliance which the producer places on Audience Research, Inc., offshoot of the American Institute of Public Opinion, George Gallup, who discussed some of the how come and when of public balloting before a Congressional committee in Washington last week, is daddy of both.

■

The purpose behind Audience Research is to make the rock-strewn road of the producer an easier path to box-office glory by canvassing public tastes and trends before and during production. This objective is served by six successive steps, all of them sufficient to make them scientifically accurate, according to Gallup. In shades of degrees, his contentions and his findings evidently are shared by producers aside from RKO which originally held an exclusive contract with AR in this industry. Those others include Columbia, David O. Selznick and Walt Disney all of whom have employed the service on occasion.

■

The story of "Farewell, My Lovely" chiefly pivots around Step No. 5, known in Gallup's shop as the Want-To-See Test. It's supposed to be crucial because it asks those canvassed if they are anxious enough to see a particular film to pay for the privilege.

There are graphs and charts of different hills and valleys, all probably bedecked prettily in compelling colors, and designed to prove where a producer may expect to get off. There also is the very stout claim by AR that it can estimate domestic grosses and that it has never missed the bus by more than $100,000 on any attraction passing through its test tubes.

■

Anyhow, "Farewell, My Lovely" had a 62 on Want-To-See which is regarded by Gallup followers as not at all bad. It was determined, subsequently, to make a final and more exhaustive sweep to learn if more people would admit they wanted to see. Sandwiched in at some point was a suspicion, and maybe a bit of uncertainty, that Dick Powell in a film yclept "Farewell, My Lovely" sounded like a musical, which it is not. As "Murder, My Sweet," AR declares it ran head-on into a 75 on Want-To-See, which is excellent. The title, therefore, was changed after a huddle made up of N. Peter Rathvon, Ned E. Depinet and Charles W. Koerner.

■

Principally what got RKO, however, was one of those Gallup gross estimates. His analysis carried to the company his conclusion the domestic take would clamber upward by an additional $300,000 under the alternative selection. Main titles on prints were corrected, 24-sheets and so on down the line were done over again and trade papers recorded the switch in the release charts.

Cost to RKO for the change-over—estimated $5,000. Against a potential, or hypothetical, and additional $295,000, the decision simply impressed as clearly one to make.

■ ■

Perry Lieber tells this one on himself, and without the slightest hesitation:

He's been battling an annoying cold and a chronic sinus condition. During a treatment for Condition No. 2 hospital attendants noted No. 1.

"Nothing to be concerned with. Besides, a cold usually attacks the softest part of the body."

Lieber's is in his head.

■ ■

A charming and amusing tale is told about one of Cecil B. De Mille's grandchildren.

It appears the child was somewhat negligent about her prayers one bedtime. A reminder was in order, De Mille providing.

During the reciting, and without warning, the youngster popped with:

"This is Cecil B. De Mille, speaking from Hollywood."

■ ■

Those hardy knights of the auto who negotiated the ten miles from Hollywood to Inglewood—and Hollywood Park—were ready to brave the perils of the road 27 miles in another direction to Arcadia—and Santa Anita—confident they'd make it. Now, of course, race tracks are growing weeds again and many of Hollywood's well knowns are growing beards.

Beards in which to hide their sorrow.

20th-Fox to Launch Mexican Production

Twentieth Century-Fox will launch production of Spanish language films in Mexico, with "Canta Clara" as the first, to start in the spring. Esther Fernandez and Tito Guizar will probably be the leads.

Although no studio space has been leased yet, Azteca in Mexico City is the most likely plant for 20th's production there. Joseph M. Schenck, executive production head, has long evinced interest in making pictures in that country. Second contemplated is understood to be "Seventh Heaven." The product will be distributed wherever Spanish films are marketable.

J. F. Wrege Named Unger's Assistant

J. F. Wrege, formerly playdate manager for United Artists, has become assistant to J. J. Unger, Western division sales manager, replacing Emanuel Silverstone, who has joined the foreign department in an executive capacity, it was learned here yesterday. John Hughes, Wrege's assistant, has succeeded him as playdate manager.

Wrege has been associated with United Artists for 18 years, serving successively in the accounting and sales department before becoming playdate manager. He was also formerly associated with the old Universal Theatres at one time.

Monogram Files with SEC on Stock Issue

Monogram Pictures Corp. has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission an amendment to its registration statement listing 17 underwriters of the proposed issue of 100,000 shares of five-and-one-half per cent cumulative convertible preferred stock.

The stock will be offered at $10 a share plus accrued dividends and would be convertible into two-and-a-quarter shares of common. It carries a retirement fund of 20 per cent net earnings after preferred dividend requirements.

Krellberg to Finance Broadway Plays

Sherman S. Krellberg, president of Principal Film Exchange and John Wildberg, theatrical producer, have incorporated Theatre Securities Syndicate for $250,000, for the financing and underwriting of plays. Krellberg and Wildberg are also principal owners of the Belasco Theatre and are interested in several Broadway plays.

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New Plan to Curb Ticket Scalping

A new plan whereby New York's theatres, the public and the city would cooperate in an effort to prevent ticket brokers from charging more than a 75-cent service charge allowed by law on each admission sold was announced here yesterday by Mayor LaGuardia in rescinding the ban on the sale of theatre tickets to hit shows through brokers, invoked last week by License Commissioner Paul Moss.

The lifting of the ban followed a City Hall conference between the Mayor, Commissioner Moss and the board of governors of the League of New York Theatres which, with independent producers, had threatened a legal battle against the Moss decree.

Under the new plan, complaints by the public will be investigated and punitive action will be taken against the broker involved both by the Commissioner and the theatre.

Theatre Parties Hit By New U. S. Ruling

Charity organizations, in many instances, will henceforth have to register with the Treasury Department as ticket brokers; will have to pay the usual 20 per cent admission tax on advanced price tickets, and will have to sell tickets to all comers at box-office prices even when the performance is a benefit at higher prices, according to a new Treasury Department ruling based on existing Internal Revenue regulations, governing theatrical benefits for charity.

Scully, Seidelman, Bergman Going West

William A. Scully, Universal vice-president and general sales manager; Joseph H. Seidelman, vice-president and foreign distribution head, and Maurice A. Bergman, Eastern advertising-publicity manager, will leave New York for California Jan. 12 for conferences with studio heads.

A. J. O'Keefe, Western division sales manager, will accompany the trio and will also confer with sales personnel in his territory.

Hodge New Assistant Director for BMOI

Thomas Hodge has been appointed assistant director of the film division of the British Information Services, it was announced here yesterday by Thomas Baird, director of the division, before leaving for the Coast.

Hodge was in Chicago for two years as film officer of the British Information Services, and prior to that was in England for the Ministry of Education in charge of mobile film units.

Healy Named Aide To Austin Keough

(*Continued from page* 1)

versity and Law School, was recently discharged from the Army. Before his induction he served on the New York State Defense Commission in Albany, under both Governors Herbert H. Lehman and Thomas E. Dewey. At one time he was associated with the promotion department of Packard Motor Car Co.

20,000,000-Ft. Raw Stock Cut This Quarter Seen

(*Continued from page* 1)

advisory committee when it meets with Burrows here on Thursday.

It has been suggested that if each company is cut between six and seven per cent, some of the smaller organizations might find themselves in serious difficulties, whereas it may be possible for some of the larger companies to take a somewhat larger cut without undue impairment of print service, thus easing the impact of the curtailment on the small outfits.

The cut now anticipated, falling within the "five to 10 per cent" predicted by MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Dec. 27, will be somewhat less than was forecast yesterday by the WPB in a review of the situation in which it disclosed that because of increased military demands, total requirements for 16-mm, aero and X-ray film this year are substantially in excess of present productive capacity.

The WPB review said that consumption of 35-mm film for entertainment purposes will have to be cut by 10 per cent from the 1944 level to meet the increased demand for other types, while civilian consumption of X-ray film will be cut to 75 per cent of last year. The civilian consumption of 16-mm film already has been cut to a minimum, now running at 1,000,000 linear feet a quarter, against 65,000,000 feet before the war.

WPB explained that every square foot of X-ray film produced above the present level will necessitate cutting the production of 35-mm raw stock by 2.5 square feet or of cut-sheet film by 1.5 square feet.

For military purposes alone, 170,000,000 linear feet of 35-mm and 142,000,000 feet of 16-mm motion picture film and 24,000,000 square feet of aero film will be required. The Army and Navy requirements for 16-mm film are 8,500,000 feet in excess of the industry's present capacity, it was said.

Connors and Sears to Washington on Stock

Tom Connors, vice-president in change of distribution for 20th Century-Fox, and Grad Sears, vice-president in charge of sales for United Artists, are among distributor executives who will travel to Washington today to meet with Lincoln Burrows on raw stock allocations for the first quarter of 1945 at a conference to be held tomorrow.

$200,000 'U' Radio Budget

(*Continued from page* 1)

of motion picture advertising managers for local radio campaigns of spot announcements to promote new films rather than company network programs.

Bergman emphasized, however, that no curtailments are planned in newspaper advertising during 1945 unless they are dictated by the publishers because of the shortage of newsprint. 'U' intends to experiment in certain types of stunt advertising in radio during 1945, he indicated.

"No commitments are being made in advance as to the method of spending money in radio in 1945," Bergman said. The $200,000 will be used for top pictures and 'idea pictures' which are susceptible to radio advertising.

"We do not consider spot announcements as the overall method of radio advertising and they will only be used on special occasions," he declared. J. Walter Thompson is handling Universal's survey of the field of radio advertising.

"Universal still considers radio as a secondary medium of advertising and has increased its appropriation only because there will be a marked decrease in newspaper space; the company will still spend three times its radio budget for newspaper advertising," Bergman concluded.

Martin Smith's Wife Dies

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 2.—Ethel Smith, wife of Martin G. Smith, co-owner of Smith and Reidler Theatres, Toledo, and president of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio, died here today. The funeral will be held Thursday from Bennett Mortuary in Toledo.

Rodgers to Speak at Auditors' Meeting

M-G-M opened its annual meeting of field auditors and "Commando Girls" at the Astor Hotel, here, yesterday with suggestions being made to the home office staffs on streamlining operations in exchanges.

The meetings, which will continue all week, are being conducted by Charles K. Stern, assistant treasurer, and Alan F. Cummings, in charge of exchange operations. Today's speakers will include William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager; William G. Brenner, in charge of exchange maintenance; Max Wolff, purchasing head; Harold J. Cleary, who will talk on the company's retirement plan; Pincus Sober, whose topic will be salary and employment laws; William Gleicher of the sales department, and S. S. Braumberg of the legal department.

BOT to Call Meeting On Monopoly Report

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The Board of Trade has not yet received observations on its monopoly report from various trade organizations, but these are expected in the near future. Following their receipt, Hugh Dalton, BOT president, will probably call a roundtable conference prior to a debate on the subject in the House of Commons.

The report, suggesting broad industry legislation and the establishment of a government tribunal for control of the industry, has been generally approved by the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association, but disapproved by the Kinematograph Renters Society.

Albert Heinman Dies

VALPARAISO, Ind., Jan. 2.—Albert F. Heinman, 83, pioneer theatre owner, has died here. He operated theatres in Indiana from 1880 to 1920.

Justice Dept. Checks Production Process

(*Continued from page* 1)

of studios, laboratories and other organizations.

"Our inquiries are not to be interpreted as constituting an investigation in any sense, but merely as gathering of information as to how the production branch operates," Frederick Rarig, chief of the West Coast branch, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY. The local branch of the Department undertook a check-up on instruction from Assistant Attorney-General Wendell Berge, following his visit here last September, when he told the press, "We intend to strike at illegal monopoly practices of the industry wherever we find them in production, distribution or exhibition."

Asked by MOTION PICTURE DAILY whether specific practices in production were meant, Berge said none were, adding "production" had been included in his statement merely to indicate the whole industry was embraced in his statement.

British Raw Stock Crisis

(*Continued from page* 1)

per cent on these materials, following the precedent established in 1940, when importers voluntarily adjusted their prices to those prevailing in the home market. Also, manufacturers may be urged to restrict the number of prints per film. Paris plants are understood to be unable to assist Britain in view of American Army demands, but it is hoped that the Antwerp plant, which worked for the Nazis throughout the period of German occupation and is still in good shape, may supply most British Army requirements.

It is likely that the whole raw stock situation will be reviewed with authorities in Washington, and Lincoln V. Burrows, chief of the U. S. War Production Board's photographic section, is understood to be satisfied that the British industry has taken all possible steps to prevent a crisis. Means of remedying the labor shortage in the raw stock field are being considered by the Ministry of Labor.

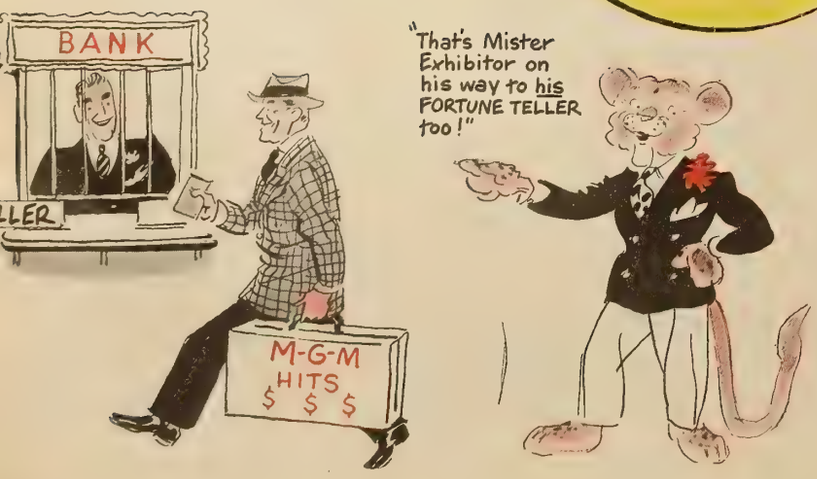
Government Demands

As in America, the shortage here has been caused largely by governmental service demands, it is claimed. The Board of Trade has been compelled to freeze film exports temporarily, but is determined to adjust the matter by instituting a strict census of service requirements and insisting upon the elimination of waste. It is hoped that the distributors' present film allotments will not have to be reduced for the new ration year, which starts Feb. 15.

Depinet Drive Opens

BOSTON, Jan. 2.—Governor-elect Maurice J. Tobin of Massachusetts, and John Shepard, 3rd, chairman of the board and general manager of the Yankee Network, took part in the festivities of the opening of the "Ned Depinet Sales Drive" here today. RKO officials were also in attendance.

"Look here 1945, your box-office lines are very Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Take a tip, Mister New Year, from this Fortune Teller. You'll be famous in film annals for 'Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo' 'Meet Me In St. Louis' 'National Velvet' and other great M-G-M hits. Yes indeed, it's going to be a FRIENDLY year."



Join March of Dimes, January 25 to 31

1945
1924 1945
21st YEAR OF
LEADERSHIP
MGM

Production in 9-Month Low, 34 Filming

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 2.—The holiday lull in production activity brought the shooting index to 34 pictures, lowest number in work since last March, when the index touched 30. Only four new features were started, while 15 were finished. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Finished: "The Power of the Whistler," "Escape in the Fog," "Rockin' in the Rockies."

Shooting: "The Fighting Guardsman," "A Thousand and One Nights."

M-G-M

Finished: "Twice Blessed," "Without Love," "Our Vines Have Tender Grapes."

Shooting: "Her Highness and the Bellboy," "The Hidden Eye," "Weekend at the Waldorf," "Hold High the Torch."

Paramount

Started: "Too Good to Be True," with Betty Hutton and Sonny Tufts; "Masquerade in Mexico," with Dorothy Lamour, Arturo De Cordoba, Patric Knowles.

Shooting: "Good Intentions," "The Virginian," "The Lost Weekend," "The Love Letters," "The Affairs of Susan," "Duffy's Tavern."

RKO Radio

Finished: "Isle of the Dead."

Shooting: "Johnny Angel," "Follow Your Heart," "The Spanish Main," "Invisible Army," "Along Came Jones" (International).

Republic

Finished: "Corpus Christi Bandit," "Gangs of the Waterfront," "Tell It to a Star," "Utah," "Tugboat Annie's Son" (James S. Burkett).

Started: "Road to Alcatraz," with Robert Lowery, June Storey, Charles Gordon, Clarence Kolb, Iris Adrian, Grant Withers; "Return at Dawn."

20th Century-Fox

Shooting: "Colonel Effingham's Raid," "A Bell for Adano," "Captain Eddie."

United Artists

Shooting: "A Walk in the Sun" (Bronston); "Blood on the Sun" (Cagney); "Story of G.I. Joe" (Cowan); "Guest Wife" (Skirball-Manning).

Universal

Finished: "Easy to Look At," "Blonde Ransom."

Shooting: "A Night in Paradise," "That's the Spirit."

Warners

Finished: "San Antonio."

Shooting: "Mildred Pierce," "This Love of Ours," "Hotel Berlin," "The Big Sleep."

Mrs. Loveland Manager

BRIDGETON, N. J., Jan. 2.—Mrs. E. C. Loveland has been named district manager of Atlantic Theatres circuit in this area, succeeding Dan Neagley, resigned. The circuit, headed by Ben Amsterdam of Philadelphia, will rebuild the Burlington Fox Theatre, which was recently destroyed by fire, as soon as priorities are available.

Reviews

"Under Western Skies"

(*Universal*)

ANOTHER minor musical with an outdoor setting has been turned out by Universal in "Under Western Skies" and the result is a pleasant, if unpretentious, film. Everett Carter and Milton Rosen have supplied Martha O'Driscoll some fetching melodies which she handles with finesse. Stanley Roberts' and Clyde Bruckman's screenplay, derived from Roberts' original, travels a well-defined path, with the usual stagecoach holdup, gunplay and slugging fest featured prominently.

The story concerns efforts of Leon Errol's variety show to perform in a Western cow town, but the show is broken up when Leo Carrillo's band makes an entrance. Irving Bacon, a sheriff with a fabled name as a marksman, permits the gang to get away when his failing sight hinders his shooting. Intramural warfare breaks out among the gang, and Carrillo puts down the revolt with neatness and despatch, but not before he has killed his henchmen with the aid of Noah Beery, Jr., the town school teacher, who has been aroused to a fighting pitch by the abduction of Miss O'Driscoll by the bandits. Film closes on a romantic note with the marriage of Beery and Miss O'Driscoll.

Others in the cast are Ian Keith, Jennifer Holt, Edna Mae Wonacott, Earle Hodgins, Dorothy Granger, Jack Rice and Shaw and Lee, who do a comedy routine. Jean Yarbrough directed, while Warren Wilson produced.

Running time, 57 minutes. "G."* Release date, Jan. 19.

CHARLES RYWECK

"The Missing Juror"

(*Columbia*)

Hollywood, Jan. 2

A WELL-CONSTRUCTED screenplay and some able acting combine to make this Wallace MacDonald production superior to the usual low-budget mystery yarn. Oscar Boetticher's direction gets every ounce of suspense out of the proceedings. The cast, headed by Jim Bannon, Janis Carter, and George Macready, is commendably convincing, with Joseph Crehan a standout in a minor role.

Charles O'Neal wrote the screenplay, which is based on an original story by Leon Abrams and Richard Hill Wilkinson. It is an absorbing story of a homicidal maniac who sets out to kill 12 people: members of a jury which, years before, convicted an innocent man. An inquiring young reporter is the first to see the connection between the series of apparently unrelated deaths, and it is he who sets in motion and brings to a successful conclusion the investigation which results in the murderer's apprehension.

L. W. O'Connell's photography adds much to the story's suspense, but the musical score, which calls for ominous orchestral passages during a scene in a Turkish bath, is intrusive rather than effective.

Running time, 66 minutes "G"*

THALIA BELL

"Saddle Leather Law"

(*Columbia*)

Hollywood, Jan. 2

CHARLES STARRETT is a handy fellow with his fists, and his boxing ability is taxed to the utmost in this Jack Fier production. For neither Starrett nor his sidekick, Dub Taylor, are able to avoid the traps set for them by the villains. The pair walk into one pitfall right after another, and only fistic dexterity and a complete disregard for the Marquess of Queensberry rules keeps them alive until the end of the picture.

Nothing new has been added to Elizabeth Beecher's screenplay. It is the one about the villains trying to obtain the land, only this time the plot is further confused by the fact that the villain is a girl, the land she covets is legally her own, and why she murders her uncle is not explained. Possibly just because she is a nasty character and ably portrayed as such by Vi Athens. Jimmy Wakely and his Saddle Pals help smooth out the rough spots with some pleasant musical numbers. Benjamin Kline directed.

Running time, 55 minutes. "G"* Release date, Dec. 21.

T. B.

*"G" denotes general classification.

Plan Latin Union Merger

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 2.—Amalgamation of all Latin American film workers into one organization is being engineered at the Latin American Labor Convention in Colombia by Salvador Carrillo of the Mexican delegation.

CBS to Honor Berle

Columbia Broadcasting System will hold a press reception for Milton Berle in the Barberry Room here tomorrow. Berle's program, "Let Yourself Go," will make its debut on CBS today.

Considine in Boston

BOSTON, Jan. 2.—Robert Considine, co-author of "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," has been here several days in conjunction with the opening of the film. Parties at the Hotel Statler and elsewhere have been given in his honor, with Bert McKenzie handling the M-G-M publicity.

New Georgia Theatre

COLUMBUS, Ga., Jan. 2.—William K. Jenkins, president of Georgia Theatres, has announced the building of a new theatre here to be started shortly at a cost of $150,000.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Jan. 2

PAUL ANDOR will have a featured role in "Hotel Berlin," now shooting at Warners. . . . 20th Century-Fox has lifted James Dunn's option and assigned him a top role in "Caribbean Mystery." . . . Film rights to "Four Men of God" have been acquired by Warners. It's the true story of four heroic chaplains who gave up their life-belts and perished in the torpedoing of the transport *Dorchester*.

•

Wallace Fox has been signed to direct the next two East Side Kids pictures for Monogram. . . . Fred deCordova has been made a full-fledged director at Warners, and assigned to do "The Time Between." . . . "What Price Innocence?" has been assigned by Columbia to Ted Richmond to produce. . . Marjorie Main will have a featured role in M-G-M's "The Harvey Girls."

•

Republic has signed James Lydon to a term contract and assigned him a leading role in "The Amazing Mr. M," on which Joseph Kane will be associate producer-director. Previously announced for roles in the production were Joseph Schildkraut, Eugene Pallette, Ona Munson and Ann Gillis. . . . Byron Poindexter has had his Paramount contract renewed.

To Resume Talks in SOPEG Pact Dispute

Meetings between the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local 109, CIO, and Loew's, 20th Century-Fox, RKO, Paramount and Columbia are expected to be resumed here this week before Commissioner James W. Fitzpatrick of the U. S. Conciliation Service after more than two weeks delay due to Fitzpatrick's illness. SOPEG's contract and job classification and wage scale dispute with the companies affects almost 2,000 "white collar" workers in the home offices of the five companies.

SOPEG has set a new deadline of midnight, Friday, for the return by mail of ballots by its 3,000 members on an amalgamation with United Office and Professional Workers of America, Local 1, CIO. Slowness of mails during the holiday season caused a shift in the original deadline of Dec. 31.

Certify SPU Extras' Bargaining Agent

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 2.—The National Labor Relations Board today certified the Screen Players Union as the bargaining agent for extra players, confirming the results of the Dec. 17 election in which the extras chose SPU in preference to the Screen Actors Guild, which had represented them for the past seven years. SPU met tonight to plan the next step toward opening negotiations with the employing producers for a contract.

U. S. Sues Schulberg

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 2.—The U. S. Attorney has filed suit here against producer B. P. Schulberg for $101,809 unpaid income tax and interest for 1934-35.

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DANGEROUS SECRETS
STALK HER
HUNGRY HEART
IN
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BRENT
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with
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Produced by
ROBERT FELLOWS
Directed by
JACQUES TOURNEUR
Screen Play by Warren Duff

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WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION	3,586,231
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ENTIRE FAN LIST	7,456,365

RKO RADIO PICTURES

See New Radio Bills In 79th Congress

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—Many months of investigation of the Federal Communications Commission by the House Interstate Commerce Committee, during the past year may develop a basis for new radio-broadcasting legislation in the 79th Congress, which opens today, according to informed opinion here. The legislation is expected to be patterned along the lines of the bills on which the committee based its inquiry, but with modifications shown by the survey to be desirable.

The coming Congress is also expected to have more time and inclination to consider industrial legislation than did its predecessor, particularly after the defeat of Germany, when efforts will be centered on as rapid a return as possible to more normal ways of business than have been followed during the past three years.

In the 78th Congress, many of the old standby bills, dealing with copyright, the proposed Division of Fine Arts, block booking and divorcement of film exhibition from production and distribution, were filed as usual, probably to keep the record straight for their introduction in every Congress.

A resume of 78th Congress legislation affecting the film industry and a forecast of how the industry may be affected by the 79th Congress appeared Dec. 26 in MOTION PICTURE DAILY

End $250,000 Suit Against Selznick

A $250,000 suit against David O. Selznick, Ernest Scanlon, Raymond A. Klun and Daniel T. O'Shea in New York Federal Court by Astra Pictures Inc., was settled out of court yesterday. Action had sought damages over the alleged rights of the plaintiff to three of Selznick's pictures.

Films involved were "Prisoner of Zenda," "Garden of Allah" and "Adventures of Tom Sawyer."

Clearance Complaint Filed in Chicago

Kedzie Amusement Co., operating the Kedzie Annex Theatre, Chicago, has filed a clearance complaint in the Chicago tribunal against the five consenting companies, the American Arbitration Association reports here.

Complainant charged that clearance granted to the Senate Theatre, also Chicago, is arbitrary, excessive and unreasonable.

Academy to Present Awards March 15

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 2.—The board of directors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has set March 15 for its 17th annual awards ceremony. Because of wartime contingencies, the traditional banquet will again be replaced by an informal gathering at the Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles, with some of the seats available to the public.

EK's Tarnow Dies

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Laurence M. Tarnow, 47, assistant at Eastman Kodak Co.'s Hawk-Eye Works, died here recently of carbon monoxide gas which overcame him as he was filling his auto radiator with antifreeze.

Review

"Sheriff of Las Vegas"

(Republic)

Hollywood, Jan. 2

THE latest adventure of Red Ryder maintains the standards set by its predecessors. 'Wild Bill' Elliott and Alice Fleming are seen again in their familiar roles of Red and the Duchess, and Bobby Blake contributes his own particular brand of humor as Little Beaver. The screenplay, by Norman S. Hall, revolves around a quarrel between a high-spirited young man and his father, during the course of which the father threatens to change his will and cut the lad off without a cent. When the father is later found dead, the son is charged with the murder. It's Elliott who solves the crime, uncovering at the same time a ring of unsavory characters.

Lesley Selander's direction is smooth as silk, and members of the cast particularly worthy of mention include Peggy Stewart, Jay Kirby, John Hamilton and William Haade. Stephen Auer was associate producer.

Running time, 66 minutes. "G"*. Release date, Dec. 31.

T. B.

*"G" denotes general classification.

A. J. Law Dies of Heart Attack Here

(*Continued from page* 1)

Justice officials on the conciliation plan in Washington two weeks ago and while no formal expression for or against the plan was made by the Department, is was reported subsequently that the proposal had been received with interest. Law had gone to Washington from the Coast to attend the meeting of industry chairmen of the March of Dimes drive with President Roosevelt at the White House on Dec. 19.

Law, a native of Logan, Utah, was 40 years old. He was accompanied on the Eastern business trip by his wife, the former Marion Templeton of Los Angeles, whom he married last July 14. In addition to his wife Law is survived by his mother, Sara James Law of Los Angeles; a sister, Elizabeth James Law of Washington, D. C., and a brother, Melvin J., now in the armed service.

Los Angeles Funeral

The body was shipped to Los Angeles last night for funeral services to be set there later.

In announcing the formation of the SCTOA last July, Law described it as an organization of both independent and circuit operators designed "to deal with problems common to all exhibitors and to provide a medium through which the views of all, large and small, can be properly expressed." His first contact with the industry was in 1927 when, as Special Assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, he began preparation of an anti-trust case against distributors. He went to Hollywood as a member of the Attorney General's staff in 1937 and later resigned to enter the private practice of law in Los Angeles. Subsequently, he handled a number of actions brought by West Coast independents against Fox West Coast Theatres and several other companies.

G. F. Nash, 80, Dies

George Frederick Nash, 80, veteran of the Broadway stage who also appeared in several films, including "Sixteen Fathoms Deep," "The Great Gatsby" and "A Man Must Live," died Saturday at the Brunswick Home in Amityville, L. I. Nash was one of the oldest members of the Lambs Club. Surviving is his son, Capt. George F. Nash, Jr., with the AAF in France.

Rules Canada Courts Can't Control Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

the Province of Quebec maintained the position of United Amusement Corp. after long litigation involving the right of United's Snowden Theatre to have priority on certain Warner features over the Kent Theatre, which is a unit of the Garson and Lane circuit, reportedly recently acquired by Odeon Theatres of Canada.

Hearing in November

The question was raised by United Amusement in a hearing last November on its appeal from a judgment of a lower court and the new decision establishes a principle which is important with respect to jurisdiction on all film contracts in Canada during the wartime life of the Federal order-in-council giving effect to Government administration of the motion picture business. An injunction secured by Kent Theatres to restrain United and Warner Bros. from exercising a release priority at the Snowden Theatre was also thrown out by the high court. Further legal action is believed unlikely because of the precedent set by the Quebec court in this latest decision and in addition the film contract involved is understood to have expired in the interim.

Famous Players has a large financial interest in United Amusement which is a group of 30 theatres operated as an affiliate of the main circuit.

Legion Classifies Five New Pictures

The Legion of Decency has classified the following new films: A-1, "Saddle Leather Law" and "Sing Me a Song of Texas," Columbia; A-2, "Can't Help Singing," Universal, "Dangerous Passage," Paramount, and "The Great Bonanza," Republic.

Peters Shot Accidentally

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 2.—Susan Peters, M-G-M player, was accidentally shot yesterday after duck hunting near San Diego, when the party, which included Miss Peters' husband, Richard Quine, former actor now in the Coast Guard, was putting its guns away at the Cuna Mesa Gun Club. The studio reports that the bullet passed through the actress's abdomen, lodging in her spine.

B'nai B'rith Sets Cinema Auxiliary

Women in the film and allied industries in New York, as well as the wives and other female members of the families of present Cinema Lodge members, may now participate in B'nai B'rith activities, through a newly-formed Cinema Auxiliary.

Recently-elected officers of the auxiliary who will be installed at a meeting at the Hotel Piccadilly on Monday evening, Jan. 22, are: President, Mrs. Anna G. Blackman, wife of Max B. Blackman of Warner Bros.; vice-president, Mrs. Bessie Lefkowitz, wife of Sam Lefkowitz of United Artists; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Ethel R. Greenfield, wife of Irving Greenfield of Loew's; treasurer, Mrs. Marian Israel. Mrs. Dorothy Block, field secretary of B'nai B'rith's Womens' Grand Lodge, is spearheading the membership drive.

Hempstead of RKO To Take Long Rest

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 2.—David Hempstead, RKO producer, has received a requested release from his contract, due to illness necessitating a long rest. He is now in St. John's Hospital and has not announced any post-convalescence plans.

Hempstead first joined RKO as producer of "Joan of Paris" in 1941.

Hollywood to Face Postwar Challenge

(*Continued from page* 1)

people in occupied countries, long starved for entertainment, are asking for pictures.

Few countries will be without their own national picture industry after war, Rose said, naming England, France, Russia, Mexico and Latin America as factors to compete with. He asserted that as long as Hollywood continues make intelligent entertainment, American products will continue to dominate the world market.

Tub Thumpers' First Initiation Jan. 16

BOSTON, Jan. 2.—The newly organized Tub Thumpers of America, with Harry Browning of M. and P. Theatres as chief tub thumper, will hold its first initiation at a 'charter closing' dinner at the Parker House nere Jan. 16. Bill Cunningham, columnist, will be the principal speaker.

Browning has offered the services of members to the forthcoming March of Dimes drive.

The organization here has been advised by Murphy McHenry of RKO Radio on the Coast and by L. L. Septembre, Columbia mid-Eastern exploitation representative, that units may be formed in Hollywood and Washington, respectively.

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Motion Picture Stock & Bond Prices in 1944

High and Low in Stock and Bond Trading for Five Years

New York Stock Exchange

Stock and Dividend	1944 Sales	1944 High	1944 Low	1944 Close	1944 Net Change	1943 High	1943 Low	1942 High	1942 Low	1941 High	1941 Low	1940 High	1940 Low
Columbia Pictures (½A)	104,000	23	16¼	20¾	+ 4	19¼	9	11¼	5⅛	7⅞	4¼	8½	3½
Columbia Pictures pfd. (2¾)	12,300	49⅝	39⅛	48	+ 7⅝	41	30½	35	24	28½	21¼	26	14¾
Consolidated Film	238,900	6⅛	2¾	5¼	+ 2⅜	3⅝	½	¾	⅜	1¼	¼	1⅛	½
Consolidated Film pfd. (1B)	284,400	30¼	16⅝	29½	+12¼	19¼	7⅝	9	7	11	7	10½	5¼
Eastman Kodak (5)	57,500	178	157	178	+17	170	146½	151½	108	145½	120¼	166¾	117
Eastman Kodak pfd. (6)	1,710	195	175	185	+ 4	184	173	180	170	182½	160	180	155
Gen. Precision (1)	323,600	23¾	18⅞	23¼	+ 3½	24½	13⅝	14¾	10¾	16¼	9⅝	13⅜	7¾
Loew's, Inc. (2C)	193,100	81¼	58	79⅞	+21⅛	64½	42¼	46¾	37	39⅜	28	37⅝	20½
Paramount (2)	888,600	30	23⅛	29¼	+ 5½	30	15½	17½	11¾	16⅛	10	10⅞	4¼
Radio-Keith-Orpheum	1,008,600	10⅜	7⅞	9¼	+ ⅜	10⅛	3½	3⅞	2	3¾	2	3⅝	2⅛
Radio-Keith-Orpheum pfd. (6)	94,135	107¾	85⅛	91½	— 8½	101½	54¼	54¼	34⅝	55½	38½	not listed	
20th Century-Fox (2C)	764,800	28⅝	21⅛	28⅝	+ 7	24¾	12⅞	16	7⅛	9⅝	5	13¼	5
20th Century-Fox pfd. (1½)	271,400	35½	28¾	35⅜	+ 6½	34½	25	26¼	19¼	24	16½	25¼	14
20th Century-Fox pr. pfd. (4½)	12,900	106½	100	106	+ 6	101	99	not listed					
Warner Brothers	1,040,300	15	11½	13½	+ 1⅜	15¾	7⅜	8½	4¼	6⅛	2¾	4¼	2

A—So far this year; B—accumulated; C—also extras.

New York Curb Exchange

Stock and Dividend	1944 Sales	1944 High	1944 Low	1944 Close	1944 Net Change	1943 High	1943 Low	1942 High	1942 Low	1941 High	1941 Low	1940 High	1940 Low
Monogram Pictures	274,900	4½	2⅞	3⅜	unch.	4	⅞	1¼	½	1⅛	¼	1	¾
Radio-Keith-Orpheum opt. war	622,100	1⅞	1	1⅛	— ⅜	2⅛	7/32	not listed					
Sentry Safety Control	52,400	1⅛	⅜	11/16	+ ¼	⅝	3/16	5/16	⅛	½	⅛	1⅛	3/16
Technicolor (½A)	311,600	24⅞	12½	23½	+11	15½	6⅝	8⅞	6⅞	11	6⅛	16⅜	8½
Trans-Lux (.10A)	148,300	4⅝	3	4	— ⅛	4⅜	1⅝	1½	½	1	⅜	1⅝	¾
Universal Pictures (2A)	105,350	26	18½	21	+ 3½	19¾	16	44	25	30½	14⅝	15¾	4

A—So far this year.

Comparison of Valuation of Stock Issues 1943-1944

Stock	Shares Outstanding	Close 1943	Valuation	Close 1944	Valuation	Net Change	
Columbia Pictures	368,268	16¾	$6,168,489	20¾	$7,641,561	+ 4	+ $1,473,072
Columbia pfd.	75,000	40⅜	3,028,125	48	3,600,000	+ 7⅝	+ 571,875
Consolidated Film	524,973	2⅞	1,509,297	5¼	2,756,007	+ 2⅜	+ 1,246,710
Consolidated Film pfd.	400,000	17¼	6,900,000	29½	11,800,000	+12¼	+ 4,900,000
Eastman Kodak	2,476,013	161	398,638,093	178	440,730,314	+17	+ 42,092,221
Eastman pfd.	61,657	181	11,159,917	185	11,406,545	+ 4	+ 246,628
General Precision	586,087	19¾	11,575,218	23¼	13,626,522	+ 3½	+ 2,051,304
Loew's, Inc.	1,665,713	58¾	97,860,638	79⅞	133,048,825	+21⅛	+ 35,188,187
Paramount	2,465,927	23¾	58,565,766	29¼	72,128,364	+ 5½	+ 13,562,598
Radio-Keith-Orpheum	2,753,053	8⅞	24,433,345	9¼	25,465,740	+ ⅜	+ 1,032,395
Radio-Keith-Orpheum, pfd.	128,170	100	12,817,000	91½	11,727,555	— 8½	— 1,089,445
20th Century-Fox	1,741,995	21⅝	37,670,641	28⅝	49,861,606	+ 7	+ 12,193,965
20th Century-Fox, pfd.	917,420	28⅞	26,490,502	35⅜	32,453,732	+ 6½	+ 5,963,230
20th Cent.-Fox pr. pfd.	500,000	100	50,000,000	106	53,000,000	+ 6	+ 3,000,000
Warner Bros.	3,701,090	12⅛	44,875,716	13½	49,964,715	+ 1⅜	+ 5,088,999
			$791,692,747		$919,214,486		$127,521,739

Film Stocks Jump To $919,214,486

(*Continued from page* 1)

almost $11,000,000,000 was the result mainly of a change of opinion regarding the probable length of the war.

Traders, viewing the reconversion period from war to peace as one foreshadowing at least temporary financial instability, have been selling stocks as a precautionary measure whenever there have been any indications that the end of the war may be in sight.

But the late 1944 German offensive, an increased demand for war materials and warnings by military and Government officials that there had been unjustified optimism about approaching peace brought a rising trend at the yearend as result of good demand for stocks.

A major factor in the rise among motion picture issues was the continued rise in national income which, in 1944, rose to another new high at an estimated $158,000,000,000. Favorable earnings trends and improvement in financial structures aided such stocks as Paramount and Loew's.

Loew's rose 21⅛ points during the year, from a close of 58¾ at the end of 1943 to 79⅞, for a gain in market valuation of $35,188,187 to a total of $133,048,825 at the end of 1944. Paramount rose $13,562,598 in market value from $58,565,766 at the end of 1943 to $72,128,364 at 1944's close.

Other major gainers were Eastman Kodak, up 17; 20th Century-Fox, up 7; Columbia Pictures, up 4 and the preferred, up 7⅝, and Consolidated Film preferred, up 12¼.

A five-year comparison of film stock tradings appears above.

Films Receipts Are Over $1,135,000,000

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—Tax figures compiled by the Treasury Department showed that 2,742 film companies out of 4,219 filing Federal returns for 1942, had total receipts of $1,135,028,000, and a net of $172,337,000 on which they paid an income tax of $40,719,000. Another 1,308 corporations had no net income, but had receipts of $82,654,000 after some deductions; 169 companies were not active during the year.

'Velvet' Is Setting $141,000 Record

Piling up a gross of $110,301 in five days, starting last Thursday and ending Monday night, Radio City Music Hall is headed for $141,000 for the third week of "National Velvet," for a new house record, according to G. S. Eyssell, managing director. Previous record was $131,007 for a single week, established by "Top Hat" in 1935.

All box office records in the history of the Music Hall were broken over the New Year's holiday weekend in recording $110,301, it was said, with indications being that the new mark of near $141,000 would be reached by tonight.

MGM Lakehurst Tour

M-G-M, in conjunction with the Navy, will take the trade press to Lakehurst Naval Station, at Lakehurst, N. J., next Monday afternoon, for a tour of the installation, to be followed by a reception for both Navy men and the press, then dinner and a screening of the company's "This Man's Navy."

$100,000 Record For 'Waves' Here

Paramount's "Here Come the Waves" set a new all-time high of $100,000 at the New York Paramount Theatre for a Christmas-New Year's holiday attraction and becomes the fifth picture in the 18-year history of the theatre to top $100,000 in the first week of an engagement, R. M. Weitman, managing director, announced here yesterday.

Paramount's previous films in the $100,000 or over class were "China," "Star Spangled Rhythm," "Lady in the Dark" and "Going My Way." "Here Come the Waves" in its opening week topped the initial week of "Going My Way" by several thousand dollars, it was said.

UA to Show 'Emmanuel'

United Artists will be host to the trade press at breakfast at its home office this morning preceding the showing of "Mr. Emmanuel," first of the J. Arthur Rank films to be released here by the company. The film will have its premiere at the Gotham Theatre here Saturday.

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 3 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1945 TEN CENTS

Sears Succeeds Depinet at War Activities

Schnitzer Will Assist In Distributors' Unit

Gradwell L. Sears, vice-president and general manager of United Artists, yesterday was unanimously elected chairman of the distributors division of the War Activities Committee, at a special meeting of the distributors division, held here. He succeeds Ned Depinet, RKO, who retired as chairman.

Gradwell L. Sears

Sears, with the aid of the committee, immediately selected ten district chairmen and a staff of 32 exchange area chairmen. Then in a message to all dis-

(*Continued on page* 12)

France Endorses Rank 'Association'

LONDON, Jan. 3.—E. T. Carr, representative of J. Arthur Rank, has returned here for consultations with Rank and with British and French government officials regarding plans for the distribution and exhibition of British films in France, which he 'hammered out' in Paris during the past month. Carr will return to France within a few days for final ratification of an agreement which is said to have the 'blessing' of the French government.

Again emphasizing that Rank seeks

(*Continued on page* 11)

Riskin Back from European Survey

Robert Riskin, chief of the Office of War Information overseas motion picture bureau, has returned to the U. S. after a two-month trip to France, England, and the liberated areas of Belgium and Holland.

During his trip, Riskin surveyed various OWI production problems in England and investigated the proposal for a joint OWI-British Ministry of

(*Continued on page* 7)

No Challenge Seen To IATSE in New 'White Collar' Union

The newly-chartered AFL Office Workers International Union which will hold its first convention at the Gibson Hotel in Cincinnati starting Monday is not expected to challenge the jurisdiction of the IATSE over 3,000 film exchange office workers or the International Brotherhood of Decorators and Paperhangers' jurisdiction over some 3,500 studio "white collar" workers who are members of Screen Office Employes Guild, Local 1391, it was learned yesterday.

Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, and representatives of the Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers are understood to have settled the question of jurisdiction over these industry office workers at the recent AFL executive board meeting in New Orleans, at which William Green, AFL president, who will open the meeting

(*Continued on page* 11)

Rodgers Says Merit Will Win Promotion

"If the people in our organization are deserving of recognition they will get a more responsible post as soon as they prove capable of handling the job," William F. Rodgers, M-G-M vice-president and general sales manager told a meeting of field auditors and field 'Commando Girls' yesterday at the Hotel Astor. Rodgers stated

(*Continued on page* 11)

U.S. to Extend Appeal Board

An order extending the terms of the three judges of the consent decree's arbitration appeal board for another year is expected to be submitted to Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard here before the end of the month by the Department of Justice. Judge Goddard renewed terms of the judges for one year, from Jan. 31, 1944, to Jan. 31, 1945, last Feb. 1.

Prior to the last extension of the terms, terms of the board members were for three years. George W. Alger, Albert W. Putnam and Robert McC. Marsh are the present judges. Marsh succeeded the late Van Vechten Veeder and his interim appointment was extended by Judge Goddard in Nov., 1943, to Jan. 31, 1944,

(*Continued on page* 13)

Worst Blizzard in Theatres' History

CINCINNATI, Jan. 3.—This state is recovering today from the worst blizzard in more than 50 years, and the film business in all situations has been affected. Hardest hit area is Northern Ohio, where snow drifts in several sections reached a depth of 10 feet.

Typical of conditions reported in many Midwestern and Eastern key cities, theatre attendance here has been demoralized, with film deliveries made impossible in some territories, causing a number of houses to close and others

(*Continued on page* 7)

Coast Expects Fewer Films From WPB Cut

Also Fears Trimming of Stock for Production

Curtailment of production looms if, as expected, the War Production Board cuts the industry's raw stock allocation five or 10 per cent, authoritative sources told MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

Studio executives who hold this viewpoint point out that many films now in backlog are awaiting raw stock with which to prepare release prints.

That the industry will have approximately 20,000,000 feet less raw

(*Continued on page* 12)

Balaban, Others Ask For Charity Group

Recommendations of Barney Balaban, Harry Brandt, Martin Smith, William Crockett, Charles Moskowitz and Karl Hoblitzelle for a plan of organization and operation whereby the Motion Picture Charities Fund may be expanded on a nationwide basis, have been forwarded by Hoblitzelle, chairman of the Fund, from Dallas,

(*Continued on page* 7)

Phil L. Ryan Forms New Production Unit

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 3.—Phil L. Ryan has established new offices here to produce independently and to represent free lance stars, writers and directors as financial and distribution counsel.

Ryan, who now plans to produce three films annually, in recent years was president of Phil L. Ryan Productions, producing comedies for Paramount release, and has held the post of production manager for Selznick International. In 1944 he was named president of Terneen Productions.

Relief from Small Town Edict on Projectionists

ALBANY, Jan. 2.—Three "variations" have been granted by the State Labor Department's Board of Standards and Appeals from a regulation of the State Police that projectionists in rural communities must be at least 21 years old. The State Police adopted the rule last summer as a safety measure, after a bad fire in a small-town theatre. On investigation, the constabulary found that two boys, said to be under 16, were operating the booth. War-time conditions and manpower shortages have caused numerous owners of theatres in small situations to hire boys and girls for projection and other duties. This condition is reported to exist even in some small cities.

The situation in the rural sections—

(*Continued on page* 13)

First War-Surplus Film Equipment

Washington, Jan. 3.—For the first time since it began to dispose of surplus government war stocks, the Reconstruction Finance Corp. revealed here today that it has received a small quantity of photographic goods and processed motion pictures. It has received projection apparatus, enlargers and accessories, located in Boston, and developing, printing and darkroom apparatus and accessories, located at Chicago and Minneapolis.

In This Issue

Review of "Mr. Emmanuel" appears on page 7; "This Man's Navy," page 13. Photos of winners in *Motion Picture Daily's* radio poll appear on 10. The booking chart appears on page 15.

41 at Testimonial For Silverstone

United Artists home office executives, producers and their representatives were hosts last night to Emanuel Silverstone at a dinner at Toots Shor's, here. Silverstone has relinquished his post as assistant to Western Division Manager J. J. Unger to become special representative of the UA's Foreign Department and will shortly leave for overseas.

Among those attending were: Edward C. Raftery, Gradwell L. Sears, Carl Leserman, Edward Schnitzer, J. J. Unger, Harry Gold, Harry Buckley, Paul Lazarus, Sr., Walter Gould, Tom Mulrooney, Harry Muller, Sam Lefkowitz, Jack Ellis, Charles Steele, Phil Dow, Jack Wrege, Charles Goetz, Eddie Mullen, Walter Liebler, Harry Schroeder, Lou Pollock, Bernard Kamber, Rex Williams, James Dunn, Herb Berg, Major Monroe W. Greenthal and S/Sgt. Paul Lazarus, Jr.

Also Jules Levey, William J. Heineman, Lowell Calvert, David E. Weshner, Seymour Roe, Budd Rogers, Archie Mayer, Bernie Kreisler, Harry Kosiner, Schuyler Wilson, Sol Krugman, Bob Montgomery and Dan Frankel.

SPU Asks Producers For Bargaining Date

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 3.—The Screen Players Union, which yesterday received National Labor Relations Board certification as the bargaining agent for extra players, today addressed to producers, individually and collectively, a letter declaring the NLRB certification text covers types of work over which the Screen Actors Guild claims continuing jurisdiction and asking the producers to name a date for opening negotiations with respect to a contract.

Simultaneously SAG addressed a letter to Class 'B' members, stating that the 'B' classification will be abolished Feb. 1 and asking the members to indicate, on a return postcard form supplied, their choice between applying for 'A' junior membership in SAG or resigning from the organization.

The producers, who last week described their own position as a "dilemma," had no comment today pending receipt of the SPU communication.

Asks $500,000 from 20th-Fox on 'Wilson'

Anthony Richard Pinci filed an action in U. S. Federal Court here yesterday against 20th Century-Fox charging that the company's "Wilson" is an infringement upon his copyrighted, but unpublished play "Woodrow Wilson," and asking $500,000 damages and an accounting of profits from the film.

Pinci said that he was a Washington correspondent and a political writer when President Wilson was elected and cited two instances when he submitted his play to 20th-Fox for consideration as a possible film.

Personal Mention

L. J. SCHLAIFER, 20th Century-Fox Central sales manager, will return to New York early next week after visiting exchanges in Cleveland and Chicago.

•

CPL. HERMAN ADDISON'S 13th Field Artillery Brigade was awarded the Croix de Guerre in Italy by General Juin, French commander, and not ADDISON, individually, as stated here on Tuesday. ADDISON managed Schine's Paramount, Glens Falls, N. Y.

•

FRANCIS HARMON, War Activities Committee coordinator, 50 years old yesterday, recalled that 26 years ago he paid for a birthday dinner in Luxemburg with Army issue soap, then a scarcity.

•

LIEUT. COMMANDER DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, JR., has been awarded the Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious conduct" during the invasion of Southern France.

•

LEE BRYAN, Republic Oklahoma City salesman, suffered a broken leg while changing trains at Memphis en route to visit friends in Atlanta.

•

RALPH L. MCCOY, Warner Bros. Southern district manager, will return to his Atlanta headquarters tomorrow from New York.

•

LEON SCHLESINGER has arrived from the Coast to confer with novelty houses on forthcoming tie-ups for Warner Bros. cartoons.

•

CPL. MILTON YASSENOFF, son of LEO YASSENOFF, head of Academy Theatres, Columbus, O., is home after 34 months in the South Pacific.

•

HARRY H. THOMAS, Monogram Eastern division manager, left yesterday on a 10-day trip to Chicago, Milwaukee and Detroit.

STEVE BRODY, Monogram general sales manager, left Hollywood by plane yesterday to attend today's meeting with War Production Board officials in Washington.

•

THEODORE THOMSON FLYNN, father of ERROL FLYNN, has been named a member of the Order of the British Empire for perfecting air-raid precautions in the present war. The elder Flynn is a professor at Queens University in Belfast, Eire.

•

LOU COHEN, manager of Loew's Poli in Hartford, and JAMES MCCARTHY, manager of the Warner Strand in that city, are both observing their 31st anniversary in the industry this week.

•

HOWARD DIETZ, M-G-M vice-president in charge of advertising, publicity and exploitation, will leave New York for the Coast Jan. 9.

•

MORTON DOWNEY is recovering from a throat infection in an American hospital in Paris.

•

JOHN J. BACEY of the RKO exchange here has a grandson, JOHN J. BACEY, III, born Sunday morning at Bronxville Hospital.

•

MRS. E. O'TOOLE, executive secretary to HENRY NEEDLES, Warners Hartford district manager, is in New York until tomorrow.

•

TOM HOFFMAN of Comerford Theatres is the father of a girl born last week in Mercy Hospital, Scranton, Pa.

•

M. E. MOREY of Monogram's New York exchange will be in Washington and Philadelphia the rest of this week.

•

HENRY BLANKE, Warner Bros. producer, is expected in New York next week.

Brumberg Heads WB Field Service Men

Mort Blumenstock, head of Warners' Eastern advertising-publicity department, announced yesterday the appointment of William W. Brumberg, formerly a member of the field public relations staff in Cleveland, to the home office in charge of field service men. Brumberg succeeds Irving Yergin, recently elevated to a studio spot as aide to Steve Trilling and to Jack L. Warner, executive producer.

Brumberg has been with Warners for more than 20 years, as branch manager, short subjects buyer, road-show manager and other posts in both exhibition and distribution. He will work under Larry Golob, Eastern publictiy manager.

McCormick Calls Meeting

CHICAGO, Jan. 3.—S. Barret McCormick, director of advertising and publicity for RKO, will hold an all-day conference with the company's local publicity staff Jan. 13, on a stop-off en route to New York from Hollywood where he is holding studio conferences on exploitation campaigns.

To Resume SOPEG Hearings Tuesday

The resumption of conciliation hearings between the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local 109, CIO and representatives of Loew's, 20th Century-Fox, RKO Radio, Paramount and Columbia, before U. S. Commissioner James W. Fitzpatrick has been set for next Tuesday here. Some 2,000 'white collarite' workers are involved.

Lose Appeal on 306, Empire Merger Upset

The Appellate Division of Kings County Supreme Court, in Brooklyn, has turned down the appeal of three members of Empire State Projectionists Union who sought to upset the merger of Empire with IATSE projectionists Local No. 306, here.

The merger took place in July, 1943, and subsequently the three projectionists sought to upset it. When they lost their case in the lower court they took an appeal to the Appellate Division.

Coming Events

Jan. 5—Variety testimonial dinner for W. A. Steffes, Niccolet Hotel, Minneapolis.

To Jan. 6—M-G-M Field auditors meet, Hotel Astor, New York.

Jan. 7-8—Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee, annual meeting, Memphis.

Jan. 15-22—IASTE executive committee meeting, Niccolet Hotel, Minneapolis.

Jan. 17—Cinema Lodge theatre party, New York.

Jan. 21-22—Motion Picture Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, annual meeting, Charlotte.

Jan. 24—National Allied's board of directors' meeting, Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus, O.

Jan. 25-31—March of Dimes campaign in theatres.

Feb. 2—Press Photographers Association dance and entertainment, Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York.

Awards Damages for Unauthorized Show

Federal Judge Mandelbaum of U. S. District Court, New York, yesterday granted judgments to Loew's Big U Film Exchange, and Universal Pictures in their copyright infringement suit against Sanfrelbob Theatre Corp.'s Grandee Theatre and Nathan Steinberg. The judge granted the plaintiffs statutory damages which will be assessed at from $250 to $5,000 per infringement, at the judge's discretion, plus attorneys' fees.

The actions were based upon the defendants' playing "Tortilla Flat," "San Francisco" and "You're a Sweetheart" each one day beyond terms of contracts. The plaintiffs were represented by Phillips, Nizer, Benjamin and Krim.

Barrows Is Re-elected For 28th Term

BOSTON, Jan. 3.—Thad C. Barrows was elected president of the IATSE in Boston for the 28th consecutive time today, receiving four times the votes cast for his opponent. Other officers elected were: Joseph Nuzzolo vice-president; Albert F. Moulton, financial secretary, and Joseph Rosen, treasurer.

Members of the executive board are: Barrows, Walter Diehl, Harold Kaitz and James O'Brien. Barrows is chief operator of the Metropolitan here.

MPRF Buys 10 Acres

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 3.—The Motion Picture Relief Fund has purchased a 10-acre tract adjoining the premises of the Motion Picture Country Home at Calabasas, for $19,500, as the site of a proposed 90-room hospital.

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ANDREWS SISTERS IN LYWOOD CANTEEN

Jack Benny IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

JOE E. BROWN IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

Eddie CANTOR IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

KITTY CARLISLE IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

ICK CARSON IN LYWOOD CANTEEN

Dane Clark IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

JOAN CRAWFORD IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

Helmut Dantine IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

BETTE DAVIS IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

VE EMERSON IN LYWOOD CANTEEN

Victor Francen IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

JOHN GARFIELD IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

Sydney Greenstreet IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

Alan HALE IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

ul Henreid IN LYWOOD CANTEEN

ROBERT HUTTON IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

IAN LESLIE IN LYWOOD CANTEEN

Peter Lorre IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

A LUPINO IN LYWOOD CANTEEN

IRENE MANNING IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

an McCracken IN LYWOOD CANTEEN

Dolores Moran IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

nis MORGAN IN LYWOOD CANTEEN

Eleanor PARKER IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

ALL OF HOLLYWOOD'S HEART IS IN IT

and

62

OF HOLLYWOOD'S STARS

CE REYNOLDS IN LYWOOD CANTEEN

ROY ROGERS & TRIGGER IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

S.Z. ("CUDDLES") SAKALL IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

ZACHARY SCOTT IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

Alexis SMITH IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

bara STANWYCK IN LYWOOD CANTEEN

Joseph Szigeti IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

Donald Woods IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

Jane WYMAN IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

JIMMY DORSEY and Band IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

RMEN AVALLARO & ORCH. IN

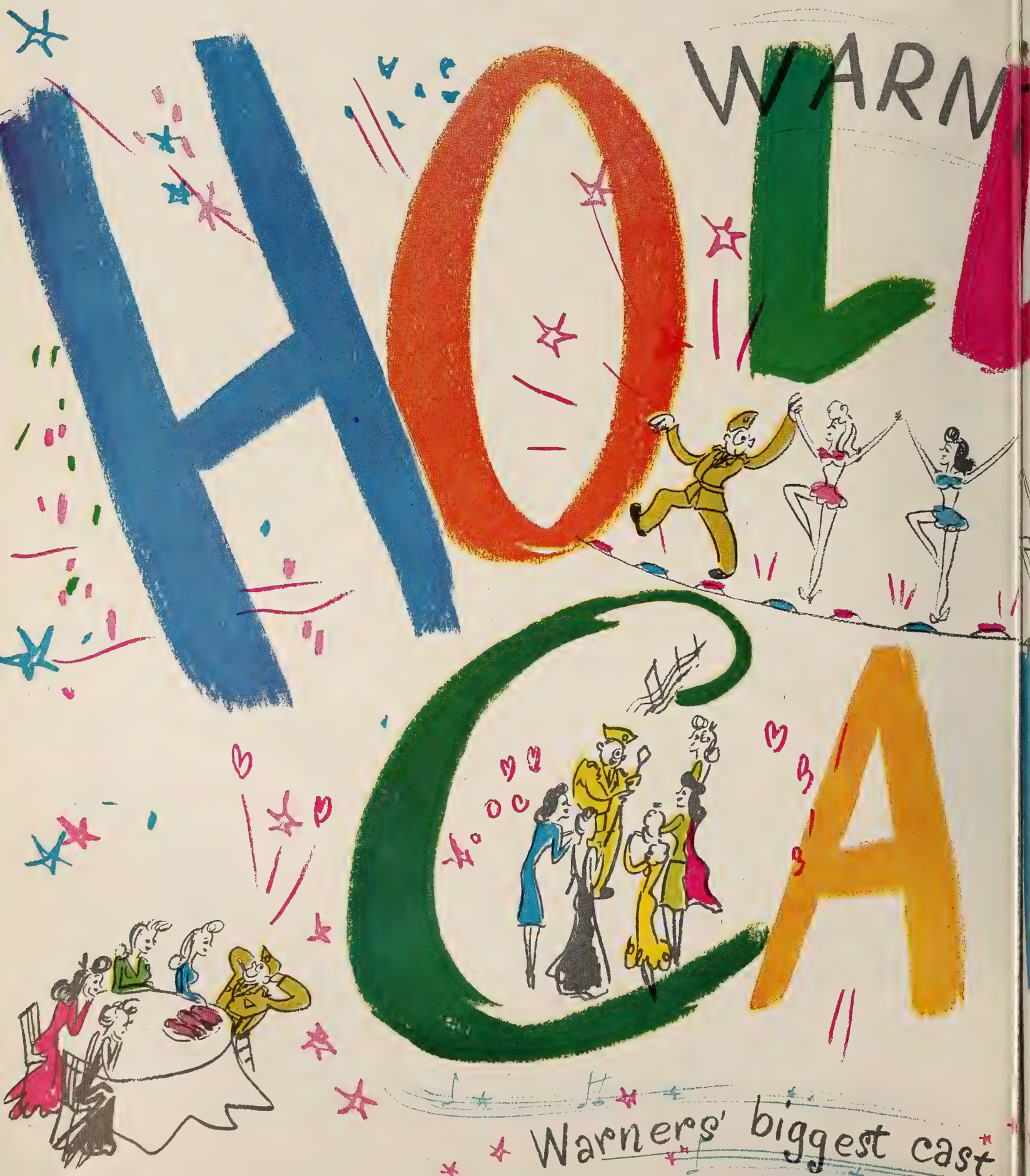
GOLDEN GATE QUARTET IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

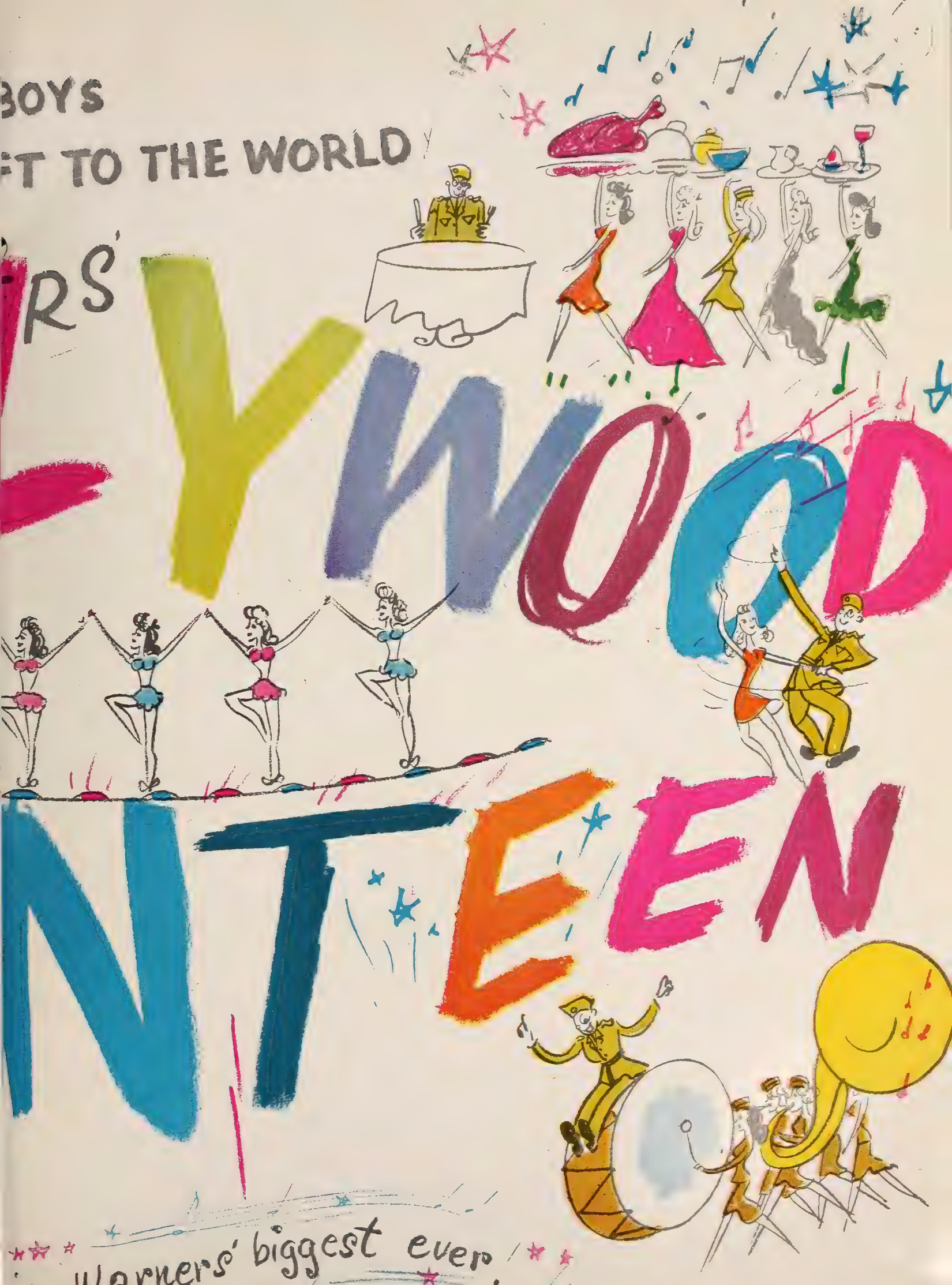
Rosario & Antonio IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

SONS OF THE PIONEERS IN HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

Original Screen Play by Delmer Da
Directed by DELMER DAVE
Musical Numbers Created and
Directed by LEROY PRINZ
Produced by
ALEX GOTTLIEB
JACK L. WARNER

HOLLYWOOD'S GLORIOUS GIFT TO OUR
NOW THE INDUSTRY'S FABULOUS G




BOYS
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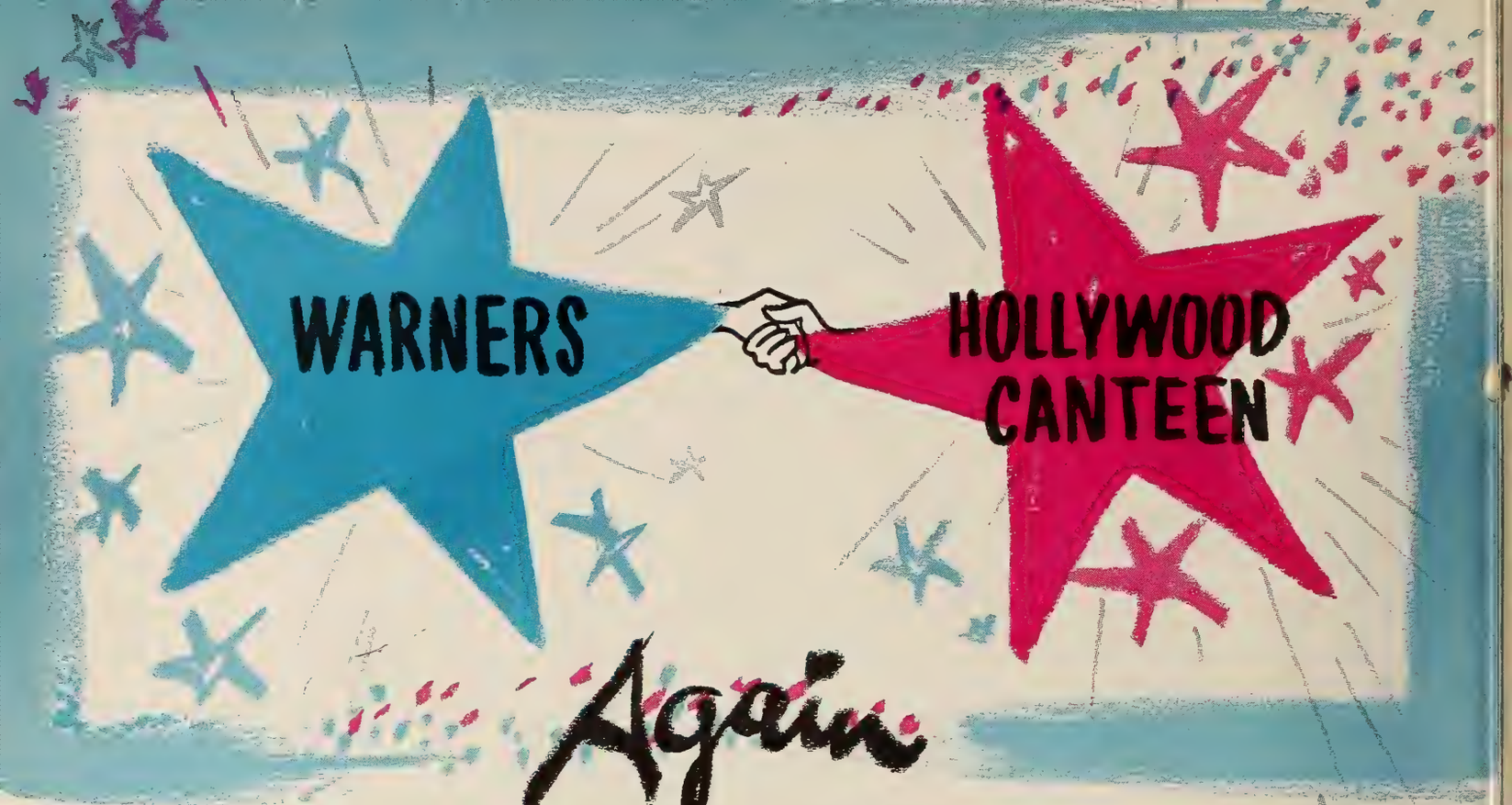
Warners' biggest ever



Again

"COMBINING GOOD CITIZENSHIP WITH GOOD PICTURE MAKING"

NEW YORK TIMES

THE HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN FOR SERVICE MEN WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDS OF THIS PRODUCTION

JACK L. WARNER, Executive Producer

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

'IA' Backs 'Dimes', More Circuits Sign

Lining up with the rest of the industry, projectionists, stage hands and other theatrical unions under IATSE international president Richard Walsh, will cooperate in the March of Dimes drive. Walsh has informed Nicholas M. Schenck, national 'Dimes' chairman, that the IATSE will cooperate as in past years. Walsh is a member of the executive committee of the drive.

Meanwhile, additional circuits have pledged for the 1945 March of Dimes, including Cooper Enterprises, Denver, 11 theatres; E. M. Loew, Boston, 35; J. J. Theatres Inc., New York, 15; Endicott Circuit, Brooklyn, eight; Rugoff and Becker, New York, 13; Trans-Lux, five; Wilbey-Kincey Theatres, Atlanta, 96; Evergreen Theatres, Portland, Ore., 12; Sterling Theatres, Seattle, 16.

Other Circuits

Also, Genesee Theatrical Enterprises, Batavia, N. Y., 17; Publix-Richards-Nace, Inc., Phoenix, 27; Essaness Theatres, Chicago, 29; Gibraltor Enterprises, Denver, 30; A. B. McCollum's Theatres, Hoopston, Ill., six; Wehrenberg-Klaman Circuit, St. Louis, 10; Maine and New Hampshire Theatre Corp., Boston, 25; Irving I. Green Theatres, Mass., four.

Also, Phil Smith Circuit, Massachusetts, 3; Western Massachusetts Theatres Inc., Springfield, Mass., 18; Herman Rifkin Theatres, Holyoke, Mass., six; Don Jacocks Theatres, Quincy, Mass., six; Interstate Theatre Corp., Boston, 23; H. J. Griffith Theatres Inc., Kansas City, 30; Dickinson Theatres Inc., Mission, Kan., 21; Fox Midwest Theatres, Kansas City, 115; Commonwealth Theatres, Kansas City, 46.

Sinatra in 'Dimes' Drive

Frank Sinatra has again been named chairman of the American Youth Division of the 1945 March of Dimes campaign by Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for infantile paralysis. Six five-minute Sinatra recordings for the drive will be featured over radio hookups beginning Jan. 14.

Riskin Back from European Survey

(*Continued from page* 1)

Information newsreel, it is understood.

Also surveyed by Riskin, were distribution problems encountered in showing the 40 Hollywood films and OWI documentaries to aid the psychological warfare and U. S. information program in Europe.

While in London, Riskin conferred with Reginald Armour, whose specific OWI film assignment will be announced shortly.

Worst Blizzard in Theatres' History

(*Continued from page* 1)

to hold over pictures they were showing when the storm hit.

The Plymouth Theatre at Plymouth was among those thrown open to protect hundreds of people walking from stalled automobiles and buses. Many industries are threatened by a shortage of gas. Schools are closed. The Ohio River is expected to reach flood stage late this week.

Review

"Mr. Emmanuel"

G. C. F.-United Artists)

J. ARTHUR RANK'S Two Cities production, "Mr. Emmanuel," first to be released in this country under the new distribution deal with United Artists, is a film of distinction and an excellent asset in Rank's bid for American audiences.

Based on the popular novel by Louis Golding, of several years back, it recounts the engrossing and dramatic story of an elderly Jew's dangerous pilgrimage to Berlin in 1938 to seek information about one of the victims of the then rampant Nazi political and racial persecutions. Felix Aylmer achieves a memorable performance in the title role which completely dominates the action since it is more a story of a man and his deeds than a melodramatic expose of Nazi excesses before the outbreak of World War II. He is ably supported by Greta Gynt and Walter Rilla, with producer William Sistrom supplying an attractive production. The unknown quantity is the possible box office returns of a film of this type at this time.

Directed by Harold French, the film has a tendency to lag during the early sequences before Aylmer sets out voluntarily on his mission to Berlin to discover what has happened to the mother of a sensitive German refugee boy. Mr. Emmanuel is a forthright and simple-minded old codger, full of the milk of human kindness. His life has been devoted to the service of helping others, and, naively, he ventures forth into the lair of the dragon. As to be expected, his questioning about the whereabouts of a political victim of the diabolical Nazi methods of persecution, leads him into the hands of the Gestapo. It is only through the intercession of Miss Gynt as a cabaret singer and an old family friend, a Jew who has found favor with a high Nazi official, that Mr. Emmanuel is saved from certain death as an infamous international spy. Released from prison, he makes a final stab at finding the mother of the refugee boy. Discovering that she is married to a Nazi officer and that she has renounced all ties with her past, including her son, he sadly returns to England with the news that the mother is dead.

Gordon Wellesley collaborated with Golding on the screen play. In pruning some eight minutes off the original British-made footage of 100 minutes, there appear to be some minor flaws in continuity. As a credit to everyone connected with this production it can be said that there are no obvious differences in dialect which American audiences could find unsatisfactory. "Mr. Emmanuel" is certainly a film with which J. Arthur Rank's production organizations can elicit favorable reactions of American audiences.

Running time, 92 minutes. "G."* Release date, Jan. 19.

MILT LIVINGSTON

"G" denotes general classification.

Balaban, Others Ask For Charity Group

(*Continued from page* 1)

to Walter Vincent, president, in New York.

Vincent had sent letters to all board members requesting recommendations. The replies ask for the engagement of an expert in charity work to organize and set forth a plan. A plan which has been approved in principle by both Hoblitzelle and Vincent, is patterned after that of the Actor's Fund of America. Under this plan the Fund would have main offices in New York with secretaries and investigators for all applicants. A similar organization would be set up in every large city.

Vincent declared yesterday that despite the size of the industry, and doubts expressed about the practical side of the plan, he personally felt it would work. He pointed out that each film company would appoint a representative in each territory which would keep expenses down.

Decision of the board should be reached within a fortnight.

Cohen a Colonel

Lt. Col. Emanuel Cohen has been promoted to a full colonelcy in the U. S. Signal Corps. A former production executive, Cohen is executive producer of the Astoria, L. I., Signal Corps Photographic Center in charge of all production of training films, industrial incentive films, the Army-Navy 'Screen Magazine,' staff reports, combat bulletins, 'GI' pictures and others.

20th Appeals 'Band' Plagiarism Verdict

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 3.—20th Century-Fox will appeal from the verdict granted Miss E. Marie Cooper by Federal Judge George H. Moore here, in which "Alexander's Ragtime Band" was found to be a plagiarism of Miss Cooper's unpublished novel, "Love Girl."

The court has appointed a special master to determine compensation for Miss Moore, and has issued an injunction against the showing of the film which is said to have grossed $7,000,000. Previous court rulings here in similar cases have given the plaintiff approximately 20 per cent of the net profits.

Pres. Camacho Lauds Disney's 'Caballeros'

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 3.—President Manuel Avila Camacho has sent congratulations to Max Gomez, local RKO manager, on Walt Disney's "The Three Caballeros," which the chief executive saw at a private screening.

The premiere at the Cine Alameda here rolled up a record gross, 3,000 being turned away after the house had been sold out at a $2 top.

Fine Arts Leased

BOSTON, Jan. 3.—Jack Markle, formerly manager of the Coolidge Corner and Brookline Village theatres here, and Leonard Tuttle, former manager of the Fenway, have leased the Fine Arts Theatre from George Kraska, and will continue its policy of showing foreign films.

Short Subject Review

"The Volunteer"

(BMI-RKO)

The British Ministry of Information offers a timely and informative subject cloaked in a tender story which should charm as well as inspire American audiences.

In its two reels "The Volunteer" covers, quite compactly, life in the air arm of the British Navy, following Ralph Richardson, ex-matinee idol, and Pat McGrath, his valet, through their experiences as officer and enlisted man, respectively. Lending reality and excitement to the production are sequences which were shot on and from the British aircraft carrier *HMS Indomitable* while it was on active service. Michael Powell and Emeric Pressberger produced, with the cooperation of the Royal Navy; RKO is releasing in the U. S. Running time, 21½ minutes.

Fly Exonerated by FCC House Report

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—The House committee which investigated the Federal Communications Commission, today filed its final report, the majority offering some defense of former chairman James L. Fly, but criticizing his activities in connection with station WFTL, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

In a review of the sale, the committee expressed the opinion that there was "deception and double dealing on the part of persons negotiating in behalf of the purchaser," and commented that, while it does not charge Fly intentionally or knowingly participated in aiding fraudulent purposes, his activities and advice "tended to serve the purposes of those participating in the deception of the owner."

The committee told the House that it found nothing basically wrong with the operations of the FCC, but recommended revision of the Communications Act to define more definitely the powers of the commission, and suggested also that Congress should determine whether or not newspapers are to be permitted to own broadcasting stations, rather than leave it to the commission.

Minority reports filed by Representative Louis E. Miller of Missouri and R. B. Wigglesworth of Massachusetts, were sharply critical of Fly's chairmanship.

Senate Gets Porter's Name For FCC Post

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Paul A. Porter's name was submitted for the second time today to the Senate to be chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Porter's nomination originally was sent by President Roosevelt late last year shortly before the session ended, and was not acted upon. He was given a recess appointment the day after Congress adjourned.

A native of Kentucky, Porter was formerly Columbia Broadcasting counsel, and more recently publicity director of the Democratic campaign. He would succeed James L. Fly.

Selected as

"THE BEST FILM DRAMA OF 1944"

by National Board of Review of Motion Pictures.

CARY GRANT

Adventurous, reckless, smashing, virile . . . in

"None but the Lonely Heart"

with Miss ETHEL

BARRYMORE

Barry FITZGERALD

June DUPREZ

Jane WYATT

GEORGE COULOURIS • DAN DURYEA

ROMAN BOHNEN • KONSTANTIN SHAYNE

Produced by David Hempstead • Directed by Clifford Odets

Screen Play by Clifford Odets

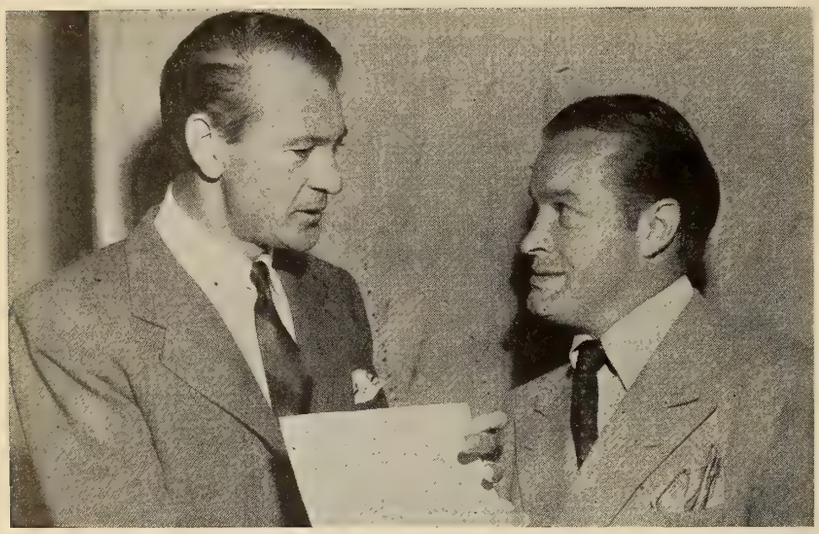
From the novel by Richard Llewellyn
author of "How Green Was My Valley"

RKO RADIO PICTURES

SIGN THAT PLEDGE! MARCH OF DIMES! (JAN. 25-31)

M. P. Daily Presents Scrolls to Radio's Best

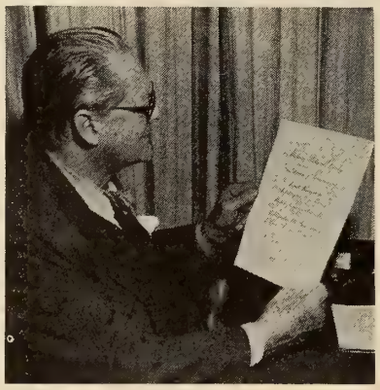
¶ Some of the smiling winners in recent nation-wide poll conducted among radio editors of daily newspapers. The results were published widely throughout the nation.



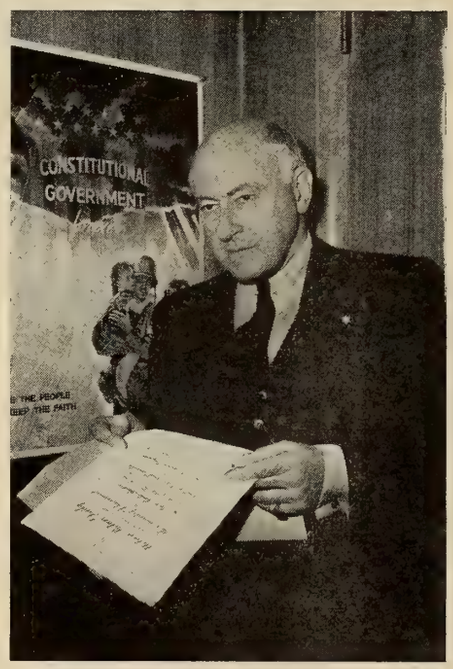
• Gary Cooper presents Champion of Champions scroll to Bob Hope, who also won several other honors in the annual poll of the nation's radio editors.

• Guy Lombardo's band voted Best on the Air—Rose Marie, Carmen and Victor Lombardo look on as Guy receives scroll.

• Paul White, CBS news head, receives scroll from Milt Livingston of *Motion Picture Daily.*

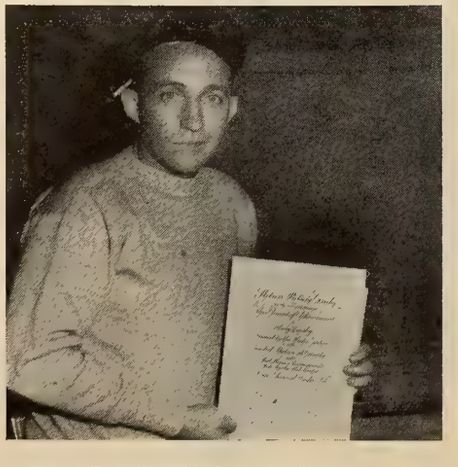


• Lionel Barrymore observes his scroll, awarded for being the Most Effective Film Player on the air.



• Cecil B. DeMille's Lux Radio Theatre was voted Best Dramatic Program.

• Dinah Shore of radio and films, was adjudged the Best Popular Female Vocalist of the airwaves.



• Best Popular Male Vocalist and Best Master of Ceremonies is Bing Crosby.

• Red Kann presents scroll to Tom Breneman, whose 'Breakfast at Sardi's' was voted Best Daytime Program.

Rodgers Says Merit Will Win Promotion

(Continued from page 1)

further, "We have always believed in building within the organization, and we will continue to adhere to this principle."

Rodgers was followed by E. K. O'Shea, Eastern sales manager, who spoke on the importance of field auditors and 'Commando Girls' in keeping branch offices informed on developments and changes in theatre operations. Others from the home office who spoke were: Max Wolff, purchasing head; Pincus Sober and S. S. Braunberg of the legal department; William G. Brenner, head of exchange maintenance; William Gleicher and Harold J. Cleary. Ten more will speak today; they are: Harold Postman, assistant to Cummings; Jay Gove, head of sales development; Mike Simons, editor of the sales house organ; Matilda Green, Charles J. Quick, Bea Lustig, Leonard Pollock, Arthur Lacks, A. J. Nelson and Ira Martin.

RCA Labs Win 'E' Star

A third star for continued outstanding achievement in the war effort has been added to the Army-Navy 'E' flag, won in 1943, by RCA Laboratories, at Princeton, N. J., O. S. Schairer, vice-president in charge of the Laboratories, announced here yesterday.

See No Challenge to IATSE In 'White Collar' Union

(Continued from page 1)

of the new office workers international in Cincinnati, was present.

The question of jurisdiction over some 800 office workers in the Warner Bros. home office and branches, Universal home office and Paramount News, who are members of Motion Picture Office Employes Union, Local 23169, is understood to have been left to the action of the new international. Russell Moss, MPOE business agent, is reported to have asked the IATSE to take jurisdiction over his group but the IATSE has made no move to do so. MPOE, which has a charter as a Federal office workers' local under the AFL, automatically would come under the jurisdiction of the new international but Moss is understood to feel that the interests of the MPOE workers lie with those of others in the film industry and that an IATSE affiliation would be more desirable than one with the new international. Moss will attend the Cincinnati convention.

On the other hand, SOEG is understood to be determined not to come under the jurisdiction of the IATSE if it is forced to leave the Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, and is equally reluctant to join the new international. It has been suggested in some quarters that SOEG might consider an affiliation with the CIO, somewhat as the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local 109, New York, is affiliated with the United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO. SOPEG represents over 3,000 office workers of film companies in New York.

Rickenbacher Promoted

Paul A. Rickenbacher has been named director of television and radio at Foote, Cone and Belding, New York agency. Rickenbacher, formerly with Young and Rubicam and J. Walter Thompson, joined FCB in Sept., 1944, as an executive in the motion picture division. Lee Strahorn will continue as manager of the New York radio department.

WB Sets Three

Warners has set New York openings in its two Broadway houses for three productions: "Roughly Speaking" will open at the Hollywood Jan. 17 following the 14-week run of "To Have and Have Not"; "Objective Burma" will go into the Strand on Jan. 26, following "Hollywood Canteen"; and "God Is My Co-Pilot" will open at that house on March 9.

France Endorses Rank 'Association'

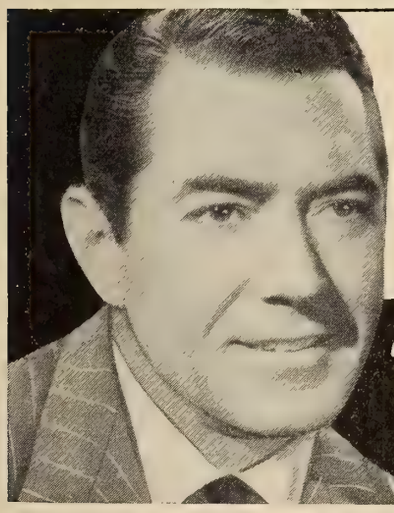
(Continued from page 1)

only to establish a 'trading association,' Carr said: "High officials of the French Embassy assure me that their government will in no circumstances tolerate usurpation of native control of cinema interests—production, distribution or exhibition—by foreign interests. Nor will they tolerate France's becoming a battle cockpit between American and British interests." Nevertheless, the French welcome Rank's offer of assistance in theatre organization and of reciprocal film exchange, Carr added.

After his forthcoming Paris trip, Carr will visit Stockholm with a view to promoting a similar agreement in Sweden. He has also been invited to Russia, although governmental difficulties may arise there. A print of "Henry V" has been sent to Moscow with the approval of Russian Ambassador Gusev.

Rank Takes Over Regal Theatre in London

LONDON, Jan. 3.—J. Arthur Rank has taken over the Regal Theatre here and closed it for at least a month of renovations and to give Odeon executives an opportunity to consider the type of program to be presented there.



JOHN MACK BROWN

A SENSATION IN A POWERFUL DRAMATIC ROLE!

One of the many screen favorites, including *Gale Storm, Sir Aubrey Smith, Conrad Nagel, Mary Boland, Frank Craven and Johnny Downs,* in 1945's great emotional smash!

"THEY SHALL HAVE FAITH"

COMING SOON FROM MONOGRAM!

MARY BOLAND

MORE LOVABLE and AMUSING THAN EVER!

One of the many screen favorites, including *Gale Storm, Sir Aubrey Smith, John Mack Brown, Frank Craven, Conrad Nagel and Johnny Downs,* in 1945's first great dramatic hit!

"THEY SHALL HAVE FAITH"

COMING SOON FROM MONOGRAM!

Video in Theatres On Percentage Seen

Sports promoters probably will make arrangements with exhibitors to supply television program material in exchange for a percentage of box office receipts, in the opinion of Samuel H. Cuff, general manager of DuMont television station WABD in New York. Cuff projected this idea in a talk on the subject "Television as a News Medium" before the Woman's Press Club of New York City at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

Sports events would be broadcast or piped by special coaxial cables directly from stadium to theatre and never sent out as a radio signal, Cuff pointed out. The sports promoter in this manner would be able to increase his receipts beyond the capacity of the stadium, he pointed out.

Supplement Newsreels

"Theatre television will probably supplement, rather than replace newsreels," Cuff declared. "Within a few minutes of the time a motion picture is made, it is ready to be shown on the television screen," he said. Events can be filmed from a plane, processed while the plane is in flight to its base transmitter and the film negative can be reversed electronically and projected onto the theatre screen converting it into a televised film program, according to Cuff.

Other speakers at the meeting included Paul White, CBS director of news broadcasts and Claude A. Jager, assistant general manager of the Associated Press. The meeting was devoted to a discussion of news in the postwar world.

$18,300 Is Very Big For 'Frenchman'

TORONTO, Jan. 3.—"Frenchman's Creek" was flowing hightide at Shea's Theatre for an expected $18,300, although all kinds of weather was on tap. "Something for the Boys" held promise of $16,300 at the Imperial, and "Can't Help Singing" pointed to $13,800 at the Uptown. Second week of "Mrs. Parkington" will bring $14,300 to Loew's Theatre.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 5:

"Tall in the Saddle" (RKO)
EGLINTON—(1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $4,000).
"Something for the Boys" (20th-Fox)
IMPERIAL—(3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $16,300. (Average: $12,800).
"Mrs. Parkington" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,300. (Average: $11,200).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
SHEA'S—(2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $18,300. (Average: $12,800).
"Tall in the Saddle" (RKO)
TIVOLI — (1,434) (12c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $4,900. (Average: $4,400).
"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $13,800. (Average: $9,800).

New Florida Theatre

CARRABELLE, Fla., Jan. 3.—George Stonoros has opened the Rex Theatre here. This city now has two theatres.

WANTED
ANIMATION-CAMERAMAN
High Pay—Excellent Opportunity
CINEFFECTS
1600 Broadway New York City
Circle 6-6252

Sears Succeeds Depinet In War Activities Post

(*Continued from page* 1)

tributors, he called for a "rekindling of the spirit of patriotic service which has characterized the outstanding accomplishments of my predecessors and their area chairmen." He named E. M. Schnitzer of his company as his assistant, succeeding Leon J. Bamberger of RKO.

Herman Gluckman will continue as assistant to the chairman of the distributor division at WAC headquarters in addition to his duties as national treasurer.

"The war is not over and our job as volunteeers for war service is not finished until victory is won and peace brings back to our homes the men and women in uniform who carry the heaviest burden of all," said Sears. "I expect to use every facility of film distribution business to complete our part of the task voluntarily assumed for our government. With the help of the previous chairmen, Ned Depinet, Bill Rogers and Bill Scully, and the men and women in the exchanges throughout the country, I know our assignment will be done well."

The committee voted to continue the plan to have district distributor chairmen with exchange area chairmen in each district as a general rule selected from the same company as district chairmen.

The Chairmen

WAC distribution district and area chairmen follow:

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK—Milton Kusell, Paramount, district chairman; Henry Mandel, Paramount, New York City; Ed Bell, Paramount, New Jersey.

NORTHEAST—Norman Ayres, Warners, New York, district chairman; William Horan, Boston; Carl Goe, New Haven, Ray Smith, Albany; Al Herman, Buffalo, all Warners.

EAST—Salem Applegate, Universal, Philadelphia, and Dave Miller, Universal, Cleveland, district co-chairmen; George Schwartz, Universal, Philadelphia; John Allen, Loew's, Washington; Joe Krenitz, Universal, Cleveland; Pete Dana, Universal, Pittsburgh.

EAST—Carl Shalit, Columbia, Detroit, district chairman; Alan Moritz, Cincinnati; Joe Gins, Detroit; W. Guy Craig, Indianapolis, all Columbia.

Other Areas

SOUTHEAST — Charles Kessnich, Loew's, Atlanta, district chairman; William Zoelner, Atlanta; Ben Rosenwald, Charlotte, both Loew's; Luke Conner, Warners, New Orleans.

SOUTHWEST—Phil Longdon, 20th-Fox, Dallas, district chairman; Cecil House, Dallas; Tom Young, Memphis; M. W. Osbourne, Oklahoma City, all 20th-Fox.

MIDWEST — Allen Usher, Paramount, Chicago, district chairman; J. Harold Stevens, Chicago; Ben Blotchy, Minneapolis; Harold Wirthwein, Milwaukee, all Paramount.

PRAIRIE DISTRICT—Tommie Thompson, United Artists, Kansas City, district chairman; B. J. McCarthy, St. Louis; Wm. E. Truog, Kansas City; B. V. McLucas, Omaha, all United Artists; Jack Kennedy, Des Moines, Loew's.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN—(No district chairman). Arthur Abeles, Denver; Charles Walker, Salt Lake City, both 20th-Fox.

WEST COAST—Herbert McIntyre, RKO, Los Angeles, district chairman; Harry Cohen, Los Angeles; Newton Jacobs, San Francisco; Mark Corey, Portland, all RKO; Maurice Saffle, Loew's, Seattle.

$9,000 Jump for 'Thirty Seconds'

BUFFALO, Jan. 3.—Boxoffice receipts perked up here despite another crippling snowstorm. "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" appeared sure of the lead with about $26,400 at the Buffalo.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 6:

"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
BUFFALO—(3,489) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $26,400. (Average: $17,400).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
GREAT LAKES—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $16,200).
"The Doughgirls" (WB)
HIPPODROME—(2,100) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week, on a moveover. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,700).
"Experiment Perilous" (RKO)
"Girl Rush" (RKO)
TWENTIETH CENTURY—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $12,200).
"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
"Dead Man's Eyes" (Univ.)
LAFAYETTE—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $19,000. (Average: $12,400).

Screening for Editors

"Resisting Enemy Interrogation," 57-minute Army Air Force film, will be shown to radio editors at noon today at the offices of Batton, Barton, Durstine & Osborn, ad agency. Film, which has William Holden in a featured part, will be dramatized on the "Cavalcade of America" radio show over station WEAF next Monday.

Kansas City Thrives On Bitter Weather

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 3.—Violently cold weather ushered in the New Year in Kansas City, but in spite of that theatres had excellent crowds. The Esquire, Uptown and Fairway, with "Winged Victory," grossed around $29,000. The Midland, with "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," scored $22,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 2-5:

"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
ESQUIRE—(800) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $9,400).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
MIDLAND—(3,000) (40c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $14,000).
"And Now Tomorrow" (Para.)
NEWMAN—(1,900) (46c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $10,000).
"Experiment Perilous" (RKO)
"Girl Rush" (RKO)
ORPHEUM—(1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $10,000).
"Carolina Blues" (Col.)
"When Strangers Marry" (Mono.)
TOWER—(2,000) (39c-75c) 7 days. Stage revue. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $9,400).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
UPTOWN—(2,000) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $5,600).
FAIRWAY—(700) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $1,600).

Allied Meeting Here

A general membership meeting of Allied of New Jersey will be held on Monday, Jan. 8, at New York headquarters. A buffet luncheon will be served.

Coast Sees WPB Cut Cutting Film Totals

(*Continued from page* 1)

stock for use this quarter than it had in the last three months of 1944 was indicated in Washington Tuesday night by tentative figures reached by Lincoln V. Burrows, chief of the War Production Board photographic division. Whether the cut is to be applied equally among the companies or graded on their ability to bear a reduction will be worked out with the industry advisory committee when it meets with Burrows there tomorrow.

Citing a typical case of release raw stock shortages, Monogram's Trem Carr said his company has ten finished pictures for which it is unable to make release prints, adding further cuts would be "disastrous." Similar situations prevail at most other companies, a check-up reveals.

Insiders Apprehensive

While awaiting the outcome of tomorrow's meeting in Washington, insiders here are likewise apprehensive that the WPB may revise the whole basis of the allocation system in use until now, as rumored under consideration. It is understood that one such revision under WPB study would apply a limitation to film used specifically for production, in contrast to the prevailing system which allows companies to use allotted raw stock for either production or release prints according to the decision of each. Since production-stock requirement is fractional as compared with distribution, studios have been able heretofore to maintain shooting schedules although often with a knowledge that pictures, when completed, would rest long in vaults awaiting the availability of stock for release prints. Production heads say any ruling modifying this arrangement would create innumerable problems all along the line from talent commitments to studio employment contracts, space rentals, and product announcements already made.

Thalia Theatre Case On Trial in Chicago

CHICAGO, Jan. 3.—The conspiracy case filed by Thomas Murray, local exhibitor, against the major distributors and local theatre circuits opened in Federal Court here today. Judge Howly heard preliminary matters.

Murray charges that he was forced to sell his second floor Thalia Theatre on the South Side because of his inability to get a choice of product. Lester, son of the plaintiff, is his attorney. The suit asks $1,000,000 in damages.

Samuel Halper Dies

CHICAGO, Jan. 3.—Samuel Halper, one of the oldest neighborhood theatre operators here, died of a heart attack today in a local gymnasium. He operated the Irving and Metro Theatres. He is survived by his widow and three children. Funeral services will be held here Friday.

Frank Miller Dies

FRANK O. MILLER, 70, head of Co-National Players, play brokers and authors' agents, died Tuesday in New York Hospital. Miller was in various phases of the entertainment industry for many years, and managed theatres here and in Cleveland.

Grainger Back, Sets Plans for Regional Meets This Month

James R. Grainger, president of Republic Pictures, upon his return to New York yesterday following a month's sales trip, announced home office and field delegates who will attend the series of three regional sales meetings to be held during January, in New York, Chicago and at the company's North Hollywood Studios. Herbert J. Yates, Sr., chairman of the board, will address all sessions.

F. L. Walton, assistant general sales manager, will attend the meetings, the first session being scheduled for next Monday, Jan. 8-10, at the New York Athletic Club. The New England, Eastern, and Central divisions, headed by district sales managers Jack Davis, Maxwell Gillis, and Sam Seplowin, respectively, will be represented by branch managers Arthur Newman, Jack Bellman, Jerome Lewis, Joseph Engel, Jake Flax, Sam P. Görrel, George H. Kirby, I. H. Pollard, E. H. Brauer, Sydney Lehman, A. Weiner, and Grover C. Schaefer.

A. W. Perry, general manager of Empire Universal Films, Ltd., Republic's Canadian distributors, and A. J. Laurie, Republic Canadian sales manager, will also attend the New York sessions. Home Office representatives will include Walter L. Titus, Jr., Albert Schiller. Si Borus, E. H. Seifert, Special representatives A. E. Fox, Fred W. Franke, Charles Reed Jones and Steve Edwards.

Chicago 11th-13th

The Chicago meeting will be held Jan. 11-13 at the Blackstone Hotel, with Yates, Grainger and Walton accompanied by district sales managers Davis, Gillis and Seplowin, and Home Office representatives Titus, Schiller, Borus, and Seifert for conferences with Central district sales manager Will Baker, Southern manager Merritt Davis, Western manager Francis Bateman, and branch managers Winfield Snelson, Harold Laird, J. H. Dillon, L. V. Seicshnaydre, Lew H. Andrews, N. J. Colquhoun, Glen Alt, William Feld, J. G. Franckman, W. M. Grant, Harry Lefholtz, Nat E. Steinberg, and franchise holder Robert F. Withers, Kansas City.

Special representatives J. V. Scully, G. D. Milford and John A. Alexander will also attend the Chicago meeting.

The Coast session will be held at the company's studio on Jan. 22-23, and will be attended by Yates, Grainger and Walton, Western district sales manager Francis Bateman, and managers and salesmen from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Denver, and Salt Lake City.

New Appeal Board Terms Are Coming

(*Continued from page* 1)

so terms of all three judges would expire simultaneously.

Since Judge Goddard voiced approval of the arbitration system at the recent hearing on motion of the Justice Department for a hearing to revise the consent decree, he is expected to grant extension of the judges' terms.

Review

"This Man's Navy"

(*M-G-M*)

Hollywood, Jan. 4

TOLD here in terms of a tale better than most, and about people like the folks who live in your own block, is the story of the lighter-than-air craft which the U. S. Navy has been, and is, using without fanfare but with much success in the prosecution of this war. The telling gives Wallace Beery his best picture in years, and he makes the most of it.

As skillfully produced by Samuel Marx, and expertly directed by William A. Wellman, from a script by Borden Chase, based on an idea by Comm. Herman E. Holland, the film is firstly about its people and secondly, but with immense effectiveness, about the lighter-than-air branch of the Navy.

Beery plays a seasoned veteran of this end of the service, a beloved braggart but a stout fighting man. After boasting of a son he doesn't have, he makes a deal with a crippled youth to pretend a father-and-son relationship. Navy doctors restore the youth to normal health and he joins the service, serving first in lighter-than-air and later as a bomber pilot, his experiences and Beery's supplying a story with appeal and interest for all.

James Gleason as Beery's pal and rival, Tom Drake as the youth, and Jane Clayton as his sweetheart provide excellent support.

Running time, 98 minutes. "G."* Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"G" denotes general classification.

Weather, Holidays Hurt in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 3.—Both temperature and box office receipts dropped at first-runs here this week. Snow and the coldest weather of the year, combined with the holiday to keep patrons at home. "Kismet" at Loew's was high with $13,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Dec. 31:

"Lake Placid Serenade" (Rep.)
"Dead Man's Eyes" (Univ.)
FOX—(5,038) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $12,500. (Average: $18,700).
"Bambi" (Walt Disney-RKO)
"Dumbo" (Walt Disney-RKO)
"Saludos Amigos" (Walt Disney-RKO)
MISSOURI—(3,514) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $9,900).
"Kismet" (M-G-M)
"Tahiti Nights" (Col.)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,162) (40c-50c-60c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $18,900).
"The Very Thought of You" (WB)
"The Singing Sheriff" (Univ.)
AMBASSADOR—(3,154) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $15,700).
"Meet Me in St. Louis" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM—(1,900) (40c-50c-60c-65c) 7 days. 4th week. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $7,100).
"Laura" (20th-Fox)
"Bowery to Broadway" (Univ.)
SHUBERT—(1,900) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $5,800. (Average: $6,100).
"Irish Eyes Are Smiling" (20th-Fox)
"Something for the Boys" (20th-Fox)
ST. LOUIS—(4,000) (40c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $5,200).

'Victory's' $16,500 Victor in Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 3.—Holiday-week crowds stimulated attendance here this week. Estimated box office receipts were above average in all houses. "Winged Victory" at the Indiana expects to gross $16,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 2-6:

"The Doughgirls" (WB)
CIRCLE—(2,800) (32c-55c) 7 days. Gross $12,000. (Average: $11,800).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
INDIANA—(3,200) (32c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $11,600).
"Sing, Neighbors, Sing" (Rep.)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (65c) 4 days. Stage show. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,000).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,800) (35c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $11,500).
"And Now Tomorow" (Para.)
LYRIC—(2,000) (32c-55c) 7 days, on a moveover from the Indiana. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $4,900).

Relief from Edict On Projectionists

(*Continued from page* 1)

the only ones in which the State Police act as inspectors of theatres and places of public assembly—has not been too bright for a long time. Many of the theatres are comparatively old, while some are converted halls. A few are upstairs propositions. Operation is often non-continuous, with projectionists working as a sideline. The operators are non-union and local regulation is scant.

The first appeal from the State Police regulation was filed by a girl operator and the woman owner of the Northwood Theatre in North Creek. The young lady, who will be 18 soon, had some training. The Board of Standards and Appeals and the State Police learned that she was capable. With the approval of the police, the board issued a "variation." Two appeals for boys were also filed and granted. Testimony showed they were able to operate machines skillfully.

'Health and Safety'

The State Police regulation for a 21-year-old minimum age is based on the section of the Labor Law requiring places of public assembly to be constructed, equipped and maintained in such fashion that the health and safety of employees and of patrons shall not be endangered. To make it constitutionally sure, the State Police plans to have a bill introduced at the coming session of the Legislature. The 21-year provision will be written into statute with a licensing setup. The understanding is that the measure will apply solely to towns and villages which have no building department to check on construction, alterations and equipment in public assemblies.

The matter is said to have been discussed informally at meetings in New York of the committee engaged in revising and modernizing the standard state building code. The State Police, the operators' union and the circuits have representatives on this committee, which is working with the State Labor Department. Small town independents may oppose the legislation, according to opinion here in local motion picture circles.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Jan. 3

ABBOTT and Costello are to undertake a new type of comedy in "Close Shave," their next feature for M-G-M. It will mark the film-production debut of Martin Gosch, who produces the comedians' radio shows. . . . James Edward Grant has been signed to a producer-writer contract by Columbia. His first production assignment will be his own original, "A Mother for May." . . . PRC has purchased an original by Philip MacDonald and E. Ruth Howard, a psychological murder thriller titled "The Intruder."

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Natalie Schafer, former Broadway actress, has been cast for an important role in Paramount's "Masquerade in Mexico." . . . Jeff Donnell will have the second feminine lead in Columbia's "Over 21." . . . Drew Pearson has been signed by RKO to appear in a prologue to "Betrayal from the East."

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George Tobias and Eve Arden have been added to the cast of the current Warner production, "Mildred Pierce." . . . Although she has yet to be seen on the screen, newcomer Audrey Young has been borrowed by RKO from Paramount for a top spot in "George White's Scandals of 1945."

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Producer Fred Quimby has organized a new cartoon unit at M-G-M, to relieve what is described as the greatest production pressure in the studio's history. The new unit will consist of a director, four animators and assistants, as well as story and gag writers, layout and background men. The move is occasioned by the extra footage requirements for "Anchors Aweigh," in which Gene Kelly will perform a dance routine with cartoon characters and background.

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"The Inside Story," by Scott Littleton, will be utilized by Columbia as the basis of the fifth in the "Whistler" series, which stars Richard Dix . . . Raymond Massey has had his Warner contract renewed . . . W. R. Frank has arranged for Jack Gorton and his dog, "Lucky," to make a personal appearance tour with his picture, "A Boy, a Girl and a Dog." Also in the troupe will be Jerry Hunter, eight-year-old actor who is under contract to Frank.

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M-G-M has announced a new series of cartoons to star "Red Hot Riding Hood." Fred Quimby will be the producer.

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Mary Mullen has been signed by M-G-M, and will make her screen debut in "The Harvey Girls" . . . Virginia Belmont, recently signed by RKO, has been cast in "Follow Your Heart," which stars Jack Haley . . . Producer Sol Lesser has decided to spend another $100,000 on additional sequences for "Tarzan and the Amazons" . . . Republic has purchased "It's a Natural," original by Frances Hyland and Barney Feins.

'Victory' Draws $80,000 at Three in L. A.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 3.—"Winged Victory" and "I'll Be Seeing You" were strongest here in the week which embraced New Year's. "Victory" took $80,000 while "I'll Be Seeing You" drew $51,700.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 3:

"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
CHINESE — (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $25,500. (Average: $14,900).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
EGYPTIAN — (1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 5 days, 4th week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $15,000).
"I'll Be Seeing You" (UA-Selznick)
FOUR STAR—(900) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $11,700. (Average: $3,250).
"I'll Be Seeing You" (UA-Selznick)
FOX - WILSHIRE — (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $10,500).
"The House of Frankenstein" (Univ.)
"The Mummy's Curse" (Univ.)
HAWAII — (1,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $5,700).
"Together Again" (Col.)
"Murder in the Blue Room" (Univ.)
HILLSTREET — (2,700) (50c-60c-80c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $18,500).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
LOEW'S STATE — (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $38,000. (Average: $29,300).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
LOS ANGELES — (2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 5 days, 4th week. Gross: $15,300. (Average: $25,000).
"Together Again" (Col.)
"Murder in the Blue Room" (Univ.)
PANTAGES — (2,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $15,300).
"Our Hearts Were Young and Gay" (Para.)
"Atlantic City" (Rep.) 5 days, 2nd week
PARAMOUNT HOLLYWOOD — (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) Gross: $9,000. (Average: $11,900).
"Our Hearts Were Young and Gay" (Para.)
"Atlantic City" (Rep.) 5 days, 2nd week
PARAMOUNT DOWNTOWN — (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) Gross: $14,000. (Average: $19,500).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
RITZ — (1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 5 days, 4th week. Gross: $7,800. (Average: $12,500).
"I'll Be Seeing You" (UA-Selznick)
UNITED ARTISTS—(2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $20,300).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
UPTOWN — (1,716) (50c-60c-85c) Gross: $16,500. (Average: $10,500).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
WARNER HOLLYWOOD—(3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $26,016. (Average: $16,700).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
WARNER DOWNTOWN—(3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $29,245. (Average: $18,700).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
WARNER WILTERN—(2,200) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $20,555. (Average: $15,800).

Theatre Licenses Cut

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 3.—Mayor David E. Dunn has cut the new film licenses issued here from two to one per cent of gross receipts of each theatre, after having received exhibitors' promises to absorb the license without passing it on to the public. Even with the cut, the city will receive from 500 to 700 per cent more from exhibitors than heretofore received. Licenses had previously ranged in flat sums from $300 to $500.

Claim 'Singing' Record

Universal's "Can't Help Singing," broke all attendance and box office records at the Criterion Theatre for the week ended New Year's Day, when paid admissions totalled 64,231, according to Charles Moss.

Cincinnati Heavy, 'Victory' on Top

CINCINNATI, Jan. 3.—The New Year got off to a good start, with figures at practically all houses headed for upper brackets. Topping the list for a record in recent months is "Winged Victory," winging its way to an approximate $21,000, a plus-average gross of $7,500, while "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" continues strong in its second week at RKO's Grand, with $10,000 in sight.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 1-4:

"Belle of the Yukon" (RKO)
RKO ALBEE — (3,300) (44c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday and New Year's Eve midnight show. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $13,500).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
RKO CAPITOL—(2,000) (44c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a New Year's Eve midnight show; 2nd week on a moveover from the Albee. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $10,000).
"Sergeant Mike" (Col.)
"The Old Texas Trail" (Univ.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (30c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $2,400).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
RKO GRAND—(1,500) (44c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday and New Year's Eve midnight show; 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $6,500).
"Three Is a Family" (UA)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (44c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $5,000).
"The House of Frankenstein" (Univ.)
"The Mummy's Curse" (Univ.)
RKO LYRIC—(1,400) (44c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $5,000).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
RKO PALACE—(2,700) (44c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday and New Year's Eve midnight show. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $13,500).
"Lost in a Harem" (M-G-M)
RKO SHUBERT—(2,150) (44c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week, on a moveover from the Palace. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $5,000).

'Hearts', 'Sweetheart' Dual for $14,100

OMAHA, Jan. 3.—Not including special shows over New Year's, downtown houses did excellent business here for the week. Best gross was $14,100, by the Orpheum, on "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay" and "She's a Sweetheart." The Omaha, featuring "Mrs. Parkington," did better the second week than the first.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 3-4:

"Belle of the Yukon" (RKO)
"The Falcon in Hollywood" (RKO)
BRANDEIS—(1,200) (44c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $9,900. (Average: $6,400).
"Mrs. Parkington" (M-G-M)
"Sergeant Mike" (Col.)
OMAHA—(2,000) (44c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week for "Mrs. Parkington," on a moveover from the Paramount. Gross: $9,900. (Average: $8,400).
"Our Hearts Were Young and Gay" (Para.)
"She's a Sweetheart" (Col.)
ORPHEUM—(3,000) (44c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $14,100. (Average: $9,800).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,900) (44c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $12,100. (Average: $11,700).

Youngstein at Treasury

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Max Youngstein, co-ordinator of advertising-publicity for the industry's Sixth War Loan Drive, is due here from New York to join the War Finance Division of the Treasury Department to handle special events and motion pictures. Youngstein formerly was executive assistant to Hal Horne at 20th Century-Fox.

B. & K. Holiday Bonus

CHICAGO, Jan. 3.—Balaban and Katz gave each of its projectionists a holiday bonus of $25. Employees received a full year's life insurance, plus government bonds.

'30 Seconds' Goes $4,000 Over Top

BOSTON, Jan. 3.—The much publicized "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" opened with a bang this week and was the main attraction at both Loew theatres, going $4,000 over par. The Metropolitan and Paramount previewed "Here Come the Waves" with a terrific $25,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 4:

"Carolina Blues" (Col.)
BOSTON — (3,200) (50c-74c-$1.10) Charlie Spivak on stage. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $24,000).
"Doughgirls" (WB)
"She's a Sweetheart" (Col.)
FENWAY — (1,373) (40c - 55c - 65c - 74c) Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,000).
"Princess and the Pirate" (RKO)
"My Pal, Wolf" (RKO)
MEMORIAL—(2,900) (40c-55c-65c-74c) Gross: $20,000. (Average: $16,000).
"Wilson" (20th-Fox)
MAJESTIC—(1,500) ($1.10) Gross: $9,000. (Average: $9,000).
"Here Come the Waves" (Par.)
METROPOLITAN — (4,367) (40c-55c-65c-74c) Gross: $25,000. (Average: $24,000).
"Here Come the Waves" (Par.)
PARAMOUNT — (1,700) (40c-55c-65c-74c) Gross: $15,000. (Average: $12,000).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
STATE — (3,200) (35c-45c-55c-75c) Gross: $22,000. (Average: $19,000).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
ORPHEUM — (2,900) (35c-45c-55c-75c) Gross: $23,000. (Average: $19,000).
"Crazy Nights" (Mono.)
"Bowery Champs" (Mono.)
TRANSLUX — (900) (30c-45c-65c-74c) Gross: $8,000. (Average: $6,000).

Baltimore Booming, All Pars Passed

BALTIMORE, Jan. 3.—Business is at its best here. Strong attractions, with increased prices and the holiday weekend, combined to put grosses on a boomtime basis. "The Princess and the Pirate," plus a stage show, is big with $23,000 at the Hippodrome, while "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" will do the same at the Century.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 4:

"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
CENTURY—(3,000) (35c-44c-55c and 60c weekends) 7 days. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $15,000).
"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
KEITH'S — (2,406) (35c-40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $15,000).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
NEW—(1,581) (30c-40c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $9,000).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
STANLEY—(3,280) (35c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $18,000).
"The Princess and the Pirate" (RKO)
HIPPODROME—(2,205) (35c-44c-55c-65c) 7 days. Stage show: Murphy Sisters, Ken Whitmer, Keaton and Armfield, Bobby Long, Billy Wells and Four Fays. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $18,500).
"Lake Placid Serenade" (Rep.)
MAYFAIR—(1,000) (35c-54c). Gross: $7,750. (Average: $7,000).

WB to Make 'Escape'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 3.—Jack L. Warner, Warner executive producer, has announced that production will begin immediately on "Escape in the Desert," inspired by the recent escape of Nazi prisoners from an Arizona desert prison camp. Alex Gottlieb will produce and Helmut Dantine will be starred.

Woolley to Play Woolley

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 3. — Monty Woolley has been signed by Jack L. Warner to play himself in "Night and Day," the story of Cole Porter and his music. Woolley has long been a friend of the composer.

Phila. Business Is Good; 'Canteen' Goes $28,500 Over

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 3.—Despite bad weather on New Year's Eve, and local Blue Laws keeping most of the center city night clubs closed, which lessened the inducement to go into town, theatre business here soared in the mid-city houses. "Hollywood Canteen" at the Mastbaum points to $28,500 over average, with an additional $8,000 for the dual Sunday showing at the Earle. Among other openings, "The Princess and the Pirate", at the Stanley, looks like $38,500, while "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" at the Fox will get $34,800, both over average.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 3-5:

"Meet Me in St. Louis" (M-G-M)
ALDINE — (900) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $25,800. (Average: $14,600).
"Mrs. Parkington" (M-G-M)
ARCADIA — (600) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $4,000).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
BOYD—(3,000) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $26,700. (Average: $18,000).
"Shadows in the Night" (Col.) 6 days.
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB) 1 day.
EARLE—(3,000) (40c-50c-85c-95c) 6 days of vaudeville, including Sammy Kaye and his band, Billy Williams, Arthur Wright, Nancy Norman, Sally Stuart, the 3 Kayedets, the Kaye Choir, Paul Winchell with Jerry Mahoney and the Three Wells. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $27,600).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
FOX — (3,000) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $34,800. (Average: $20,500).
"Something for the Boys" (20th-Fox)
KARLTON — (1,000) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $6,600).
"Casanova Brown" (RKO)
KEITH'S—(2,200) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $5,500. (Average: $5,800).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
MASTBAUM—(4,700) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $51,000. (Average: $22,500).
"The Princess and the Pirate" (RKO)
STANLEY — (3,000) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $38,500. (Average: $20,000).
"Tall in the Saddle" (RKO)
STANTON — (1,700) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,800. (Average: $9,400).

200% for 'Victory' At Two in Denver

DENVER, Jan. 3.—The Denver and Esquire theatres rang out the old and rang in the new year with "Winged Victory" scoring 100 per cent above average at both houses. The Denver grossed $30,000, while the Esquire scored $9,000. "Frenchman's Creek" at the Denham hit a high of $11,500, and the Paramount register read $16,275; all moveovers were above average.

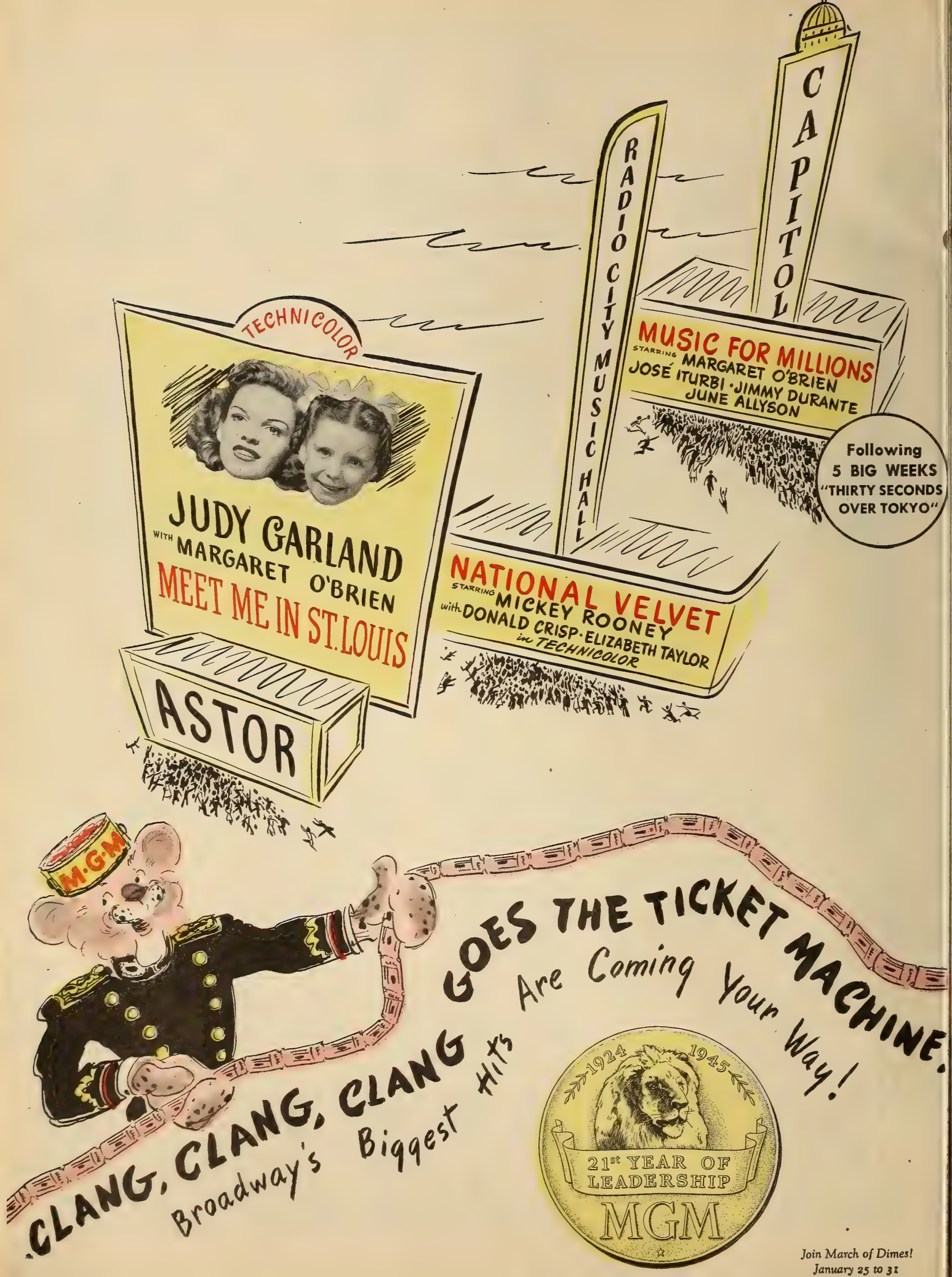
Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 1-4:

"The Very Thought of You" (WB)
"Jade Mask" (Mono.)
ALADDIN—(1,400) (35c-45c-74c) 7 days, on a moveover. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $5,600).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
DENHAM—(1,750) (35c-45c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $9,000).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
DENVER—(2,600) (35c-45c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $15,000).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
ESQUIRE—(740) (35c-45c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $4,500).
"Bowery to Broadway" (Univ.)
"Under Western Skies" (Univ.)
PARAMOUNT—(2,200) (35c-45c-74c) 7 days. Gross: $16,275. (Average: $9,300).
"Summer Storm" (UA)
"Hi, Beautiful" (Univ.)
RIALTO—(900) (35c-45c-74c) 7 days, on a moveover. Gross: $6,250. (Average: $5,000).

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Dec. 9	TAHITI NIGHTS Dave O'Brien Jinx Falkenburg C	(Ninth Block) THE THIN MAN GOES HOME William Powell Myrna Loy C—100 mins. (513) (Rev. 11/24/44)	SHADOW OF SUSPICION Marjorie Weaver Peter Cookson D—68 mins. (416) (Rev. 10/4/44)	(Special Reissue) THE SIGN OF THE CROSS Fredric March Claudette Colbert D—118 mins. (4432) (Rev. 8/23/44)	OATH OF VENGEANCE Buster Crabbe Al St. John O—57 mins. THE TOWN WENT WILD Freddie Bartholomew Jimmy Lydon D—80 mins. (Rev.11/13/44)		(Special Release) THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW (International) E. G. Robinson Joan Bennett Raymond Massey D—99 mins. (382) (Rev. 10/10/44)			HI BEAUTIFUL Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. C—64 mins. (9031) (Rev. 11/24/44)	
Dec. 16	TOGETHER AGAIN C—100 mins. (6003) (Rev. 11/3/44) SADDLE LEATHER LAW O—55 mins. (6203) (Rev. 1/3/45)		ALASKA Kent Taylor Margaret Lindsay D—76 mins. (403) (Rev. 10/16/44)	(Second Block) FRENCHMAN'S CREEK (Color) Joan Fontaine Arturo de Cordova D—113 mins. (4408) (Rev. 9/20/44)		THOROUGH-BREDS Tom Neal Adele Mara D—55 mins. (408)	(Special Release) CASANOVA BROWN (International) Gary Cooper Teresa Wright C—92 mins. (581) (Rev. 8/1/44)	(Special Release) WILSON (Color) Alexander Knox Geraldine Fitzgerald D—154 mins. (530) (Rev. 8/2/44)		MY GAL LOVES MUSIC Grace McDonald Bob Crosby M—63 mins. (9037) (Rev. 12/5/44) THE OLD TEXAS TRAIL Rod Cameron O—60 mins. (9082)	
Dec. 23	DANCING IN MANHATTAN Fred Brady Jeff Donnell C—60 mins. (6038) (Rev. 12/21/44)	MAIN STREET AFTER DARK Edward Arnold Selena Royle D—57 mins. (514) (Rev. 11/28/44)	BOWERY CHAMPS East Side Kids D—62 mins. (409) (Rev. 11/16/44)	MINISTRY OF FEAR Ray Milland Marjorie Reynolds D—84 mins. (4410) (Rev. 10/18/44)	CASTLE OF CRIMES (British) Keneth Kent Diana Churchill Belle Chrystall D—60 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44)	THE BIG BONANZA Richard Arlen D—69 mins. (407)	(First Block) MY PAL WOLF Jill Esmond Una O'Connor D—69 mins. (505) (Rev. 9/21/44)		TOMORROW THE WORLD Fredric March Betty Field D—86 mins. (Rev. 12/18/44)	DESTINY Gloria Jean Alan Curtis Grace McDonald D—65 mins. (Rev. 12/7/44)	
Dec. 30	LET'S GO STEADY Pat Parrish Jackie Moran June Preisser C—60 mins. (6039)	MUSIC FOR MILLIONS Margaret O'Brien Jose Iturbi M—118 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/13/44)	NAVAJO TRAILS Johnny Mack Brown O—(454)	THE MAN IN HALF-MOON STREET Nils Asther Helen Walker D—92 mins. (4407) (Rev. 10/17/44)	THE WHISPERING SKULL (Texas Rangers) O—55 mins.	SHERIFF OF LAS VEGAS 66 mins.—O (3316) (Rev. 1/3/45)	NONE BUT THE LONELY HEART Cary Grant Ethel Barrymore D—113 mins. (501) (Rev. 10/2/44) GOIN' TO TOWN Lum and Abner C—75 mins. (504) (Rev. 9/25/44)		I'LL BE SEEING YOU Ginger Rogers Joseph Cotten D—85 mins. (Rev. 12/19/44)	CAN'T HELP SINGING (Color) Deanna Durbin Robert Paige Akim Tamiroff M—88mins. (9071) (Rev. 12/14/44)	
Jan. 6	YOUTH ON TRIAL Cora Sue Collins David Reed Eric Sinclair D	BLONDE FEVER Philip Dorn Mary Astor C—69 mins. (516) (Rev. 11/28/44)	ARMY WIVES Elyse Knox Rick Vallin D—67 mins. (414) (Rev.12/5/44)	AND NOW TOMORROW Loretta Young Alan Ladd D—85 mins. (4406) (Rev. 10/17/44)			TALL IN THE SADDLE John Wayne O—87 mins. (503) (Rev. 9/26/44) THE MASTER RACE George Coulouris D—96 mins. (502) (Rev. 8/21/44)	(Fifth Block) (Dec. Release) WINGED VICTORY Edmond O'Brien Jeanne Crain D—130 min. (512) (Rev. 11/22/44)		NIGHT CLUB GIRL Vivian Austin Edward Norris M—60 mins. (9035) (Rev. 12/8/44)	HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN All-Star Cast M—123 mins. (409) (Rev. 12/5/44)
Jan. 13	EADIE WAS A LADY Joe Besser Hal McIntyre and Orchestra C	BETWEEN TWO WOMEN Van Johnson Lionel Barrymore D—82 mins. (518) (Rev. 12/21/44)	ADVENTURES Of KITTY O'DAY Jean Parker D—63 mins. (420) (Rev. 12/8/44)	ONE BODY TOO MANY Jack Haley Jean Parker C—76 mins. (4409) (Rev. 10/18/44)		GRISSLY'S MILLIONS Paul Kelly Virginia Grey D—71 mins. (409)	(Second Block) EXPERIMENT PERILOUS Hedy Lamarr George Brent D—91 mins. (510) (Rev. 12/6/44) MURDER, MY SWEET Anne Shirley Dick Powell D—95 mins. (508) (Rev. 12/6/44)	SUNDAY DINNER FOR A SOLDIER Anne Baxter John Hodiak D—86 mins. (513) (Rev. 12/6/44)	MR. EMMANUEL (British) Felix Aylmer Greta Gynt D—100 mins.	SHE GETS HER MAN Joan Davis William Gargan Leon Errol C	
Jan. 20	I LOVE A MYSTERY Jim Bannon Barton Yarborough Nina Foch D	NOTHING BUT TROUBLE Laurel and Hardy C—69 mins. (519) (Rev. 12/5/44)	JADE MASK Sidney Toler D—66 mins. (417)	(Third Block) HERE COME THE WAVES Bing Crosby Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts M—97 mins. (4411) (Rev. 12/18/44)	FOG ISLAND Lionel Atwill George Zucco D		GIRL RUSH C—65 mins (506) (Rev. 10/25/44) NEVADA O—62 mins. (509) (Rev. 12/11/44) THE FALCON IN HOLLYWOOD D—67 mins. (507) (Rev. 12/5/44)			UNDER WESTERN SKIES Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. Leo Carrillo O—57 mins. (9039) (Rev. 1/3/45)	TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT Humphrey Bogart Lauren Bacall D—100 mins. (410) (Rev. 10/11/44)
Jan. 27	SAGEBRUSH HEROES Charles Starrett O	THIS MAN'S NAVY Wallace Beery James Gleason D—100 mins. (517)	THEY SHALL HAVE FAITH Gale Storm C. Aubrey Smith D—83 mins. (Rev. 12/13/44)	DANGEROUS PASSAGE Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4412) (Rev. 12/21/44)	MARKED FOR MURDER Dave O'Brien O—56 mins. HIS BROTHER'S GHOST Buster Crabbe O KID SISTER Judy Clark D		(Special) THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE (Goldwyn) (Color) Bob Hope Virginia Mayo C—94 mins. (551) (Rev. 10/11/44)	(Jan. Release) KEYS OF THE KINGDOM Gregory Peck Thomas Mitchell D—137 mins. (514) (Rev. 12/13/44)			THE SUSPECT Charles Laughton Ella Raines Dean Harens D—85 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44)	
Feb. 3	SING ME A SONG OF TEXAS Rosemary Lane Hal McIntyre Orch. M	(Special Release) 30 SECONDS OVER TOKYO Spencer Tracy Van Johnson D—138 mins. (511) (Rev. 11/14/44)	CISCO KID RETURNS Duncan Renaldo O	FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS (Color) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—158 mins. (4413) (Rev. 7/15/43)	SPELL OF AMY NUGENT (English) Derek Farr D THE MAN WHO WALKED ALONE Dave O'Brien O		(Special Release) BELLE OF THE YUKON (International) (Color) Gypsy Rose Lee Randolph Scott Bob Burns C—84 mins. (583) (Rev. 11/29/44)	THE FIGHTING LADY (Color) (documentary) 61 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/21/44)			HERE COME THE CO-EDS Abbott and Costello Phil Spitalny and Orch. C	
Feb. 10		(Special Release) MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS (Color) Judy Garland Margaret O'Brien M—113 mins. (512) (Rev. 11/1/44)	GUN SMOKE Johnny Mack Brown O—58 mins. (455)	PRACTICALLY YOURS Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray C—90 mins. (4414) (Rev. 12/15/44)				THE WAY AHEAD (British) David Niven Raymond Huntley D—115 mins. (511)		HER LUCKY NIGHT Andrews Sisters Martha O'Driscoll M	
Feb. 17	LEAVE IT TO BLONDIE Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C			DOUBLE EXPOSURE Chester Morris Nancy Kelly D—63 mins. (4415) (Rev. 12/21/44)						THE HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN Boris Karloff Lon Chaney D—71 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44) THE MUMMY'S CURSE Peter Coe D—60 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44)	

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama. (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily Review Date.



Join March of Dimes!
January 25 to 31

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 4 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1945 | TEN CENTS

$4,500,000 a Year Is Cost Of Checking

10,000 Checkers Used To Tab Percentages

Distributors are currently spending upwards of $4,500,000 a year to check some 450,000 playdates yearly on percentage pictures, a survey by MOTION PICTURE DAILY reveals.

Some 10,000 checkers are employed with Ross Federal Service, which checks for Paramount, RKO Radio, 20th Century-Fox, United Artists, Universal, Columbia and others, using an estimated 5,000 checkers; Warner Bros., using 3,000, and M-G-M, 2,000.

It is estimated that Warners and M-G-M each spend upwards of $750,000 a year on checking while Ross Federal derives upwards of $2,500,000 from its regular checking service for other distributors.

M-G-M is understood to be studying a rather widespread overhauling of its checking system, with final de-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Call for Action on ITOA's Trade Bill

A membership meeting of the I. T. O. A. of New York went on record yesterday as favoring immediate action by the organization on the draft of proposed legislation regulating trade practices which it has prepared for introduction in the State legislature.

Following lengthy discussion the draft was referred to the I. O. T. A.'s

(*Continued on page 3*)

Murray Will Have Arlington Burial

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4. — Funeral services will be held on Monday at the Church of the Nativity for Raymond B. Murray, 48, for 23 years director of the Army Motion Picture Service, who died of a heart attack Wednesday, while driving his car. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery.

Murray, native of Rockville, Conn., helped to organize the Army Motion Picture Service in 1920. He was made assistant director at that time and two

(*Continued on page 6*)

Convention Ban Is Expected Today

Announcement of a ban on national conventions in 1945 is expected today or tomorrow from the Office of War Mobilization and the Office of Defense Transportation. The ban was predicted yesterday by the American Transit Association as a means of relieving the increasing burden on wartime transportation facilities.

Name Titus Head of Republic Exchanges

Walter L. Titus, Jr. has been made executive assistant in charge of branch operations for Republic Pictures, according to an announcement made here yesterday by James R. Grainger, president and general sales manager.

Titus will assume his new post immediately and will accompany E. L. Walton, assistant general sales manager, on a tour of all Republic branches in the U. S., as well as the Canadian offices of Empire Universal, Republic's Canadian distributors. This tour will begin after sales meetings, which start Monday at the New York Athletic Club.

It is expected that Herbert J. Yates, chairman of the board, and Grainger, after consultations following the West Coast regional sales meet-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Arthur Loew and Harry Goldberg Are Named by WAC

Major Arthur M. Loew, who recently returned to his post as head of the international department of Loew's after active service with the Army, was yesterday elected chairman of the foreign managers division of the War Activities Committee. Major Loew was advised by phone in Mexico City of his election. He is vacationing.

Maj. Arthur M. Loew

Major Loew expressed the hope that during his term of office the foreign managers division

(*Continued on page 3*)

Depinet, Bamberger To Be Cited by WAC

Ned E. Depinet and Leon Bamberger, chairman and assistant chairman, respectively, of the distributors division of the War Activities Committee during 1944, will be honored at a WAC staff luncheon to be held at the Astor Hotel here next Tuesday.

Plaques will be awarded to them for their services during the year. Gradwell L. Sears succeeds Depinet

(*Continued on page 3*)

Wartime Teamwork Should Be Preserved, Zukor Says

If exhibitors and distributors cooperate with each other on trade problems as they do in their participation in the war effort, those problems could be solved within the industry much more satisfactorily than by outsiders, Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board of Paramount, said in an interview with MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday.

Adolph Zukor

Zukor, who will celebrate his 72nd birthday Sunday, emphasized that disputes and grievances within the industry can be adjusted in the same spirit of wholehearted cooperation that distributors and exhibitors accord their contributions to the war effort.

The industry will continue to serve the country after the war, if it is needed, Zukor believes, since its patriotic spirit will be the same then as it is at present. "The industry has made a great contribution to the war effort," he observed.

Expressing the opinion that the industry has reached its highest point in production and technical developments, and predicting a bright future for it, Zukor said:

"We have developed the art of producing pictures to the point where their appeal now is to all kinds of people. The necessity of creating a

(*Continued on page 6*)

Heaviest Raw Stock Cut to Hit Big Users

WPB, Committee Rule Out Horizontal Slash

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4. — Although five hours of discussion here today between Lincoln V. Burrows, chief of the War Production Board's photographic division, and members of WPB's motion picture industry advisory committee failed to reach a decision on the extent of the raw stock allocation cut that will be necessary for the current quarter or on specifically how the cut shall be applied to individual companies, application of the slash on a horizontal basis was ruled out in favor of the development of a formula under which the companies most able to curtail their consumption will take the heaviest reduction, thus aiding the smaller companies, which might find themselves in a serious situation if they had to bear their full share.

Several formulas, it was decided,

(*Continued on page 6*)

Will Sell 359,000 Of RKO Common

Public sale of 359,000 shares of RKO common stock, representing about 13 per cent of common shares outstanding, and valued at the current market price of $9 at over $3,230,000 is understood to be contemplated soon by Dillon Read and Co.

The stock, according to an RKO spokesman, is presumably that held

(*Continued on page 6*)

Crosby, Rogers Win 'Fame' British Poll

British exhibitors, voting in the annual *Motion Picture Herald-Fame* poll of 'International Box Office Winners' (either American or British players), for 1944, have selected the following top ten: Bing Crosby, Betty Grable, Greer Garson, Deanna Durbin,

(*Continued on page 3*)

Reviewed Today

Review of "She Gets Her Man" appears on page 3.

Personal Mention

PHIL WILLIAMS, March of Time advertising and publicity manager, left yesterday for Boston.

•

SGT. STANLEY FISHMAN, son of SELIG FISHMAN, co-owner of Fishman Theatres in Connecticut, has been awarded the Silver Star in France for "gallantry in action." SGT. FISHMAN is now with the American Army in France.

•

HARRY L. GOLD, United Artists sales executive, and MRS. GOLD, yesterday announced the engagement of their daughter, GLORIA JEAN, to LT. SEYMOUR UDELL, USN Submarine Service.

•

FRED T. STEELE, Monogram's studio manager, and MRS. STEELE are the parents of a baby boy, FRED T. STEELE, JR., born last week at Magnolia Park Maternity hospital, Burbank, Cal.

•

JAMES WINN and RUD LOHRENZ, United Artists district managers in Boston and Chicago, respectively, are in New York for home office conferences.

•

H. D. HEARN of Exhibitor's Service, Charlotte, N. C., and MRS. HEARN have returned to that city after a visit here.

•

CHARLES E. (CHICK) LEWIS will leave New York Medical Center today to convalesce at home following an eye operation.

•

FRED JACK, Southern division manager for United Artists, is visiting at the Atlanta office.

•

JACK PRICE, Paramount branch manager in New Orleans, is visiting in Atlanta.

•

BUFORD CRAIG, RKO publicist, was seriously injured in an automobile crash while en route from Hollywood to San Francisco yesterday.

Nizer Book 'Foremost'

The *New York Times* has selected Louis Nizer's "What to Do With Germany" as "the foremost political work on Germany during the past year." Nizer, a member of the industry law firm of Phillips, Nizer, Benjamin and Krim, has also received recognition from the *London Daily Express* which reported that President Roosevelt had sent ten copies of the book to Prime Minister Churchill and his cabinet.

RCA's Thompson Killed

Browder J. Thompson, 40, formerly associate research director of RCA Laboratories, Princeton, N. J., on leave of absence to serve as consultant in the office of the Secretary of War, was killed July 4 while on a special mission in the Mediterranean theatre of operations, it was learned here yesterday.

Northwest to Honor Al Steffes Tonight

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 4.—State and local dignitaries and civic leaders will join film industry members to pay honor to W. A. (Al) Steffes, retiring chief barker of the Northwest Variety club, and pioneer exhibitor and exhibitor leader, at a testimonial banquet at the Hotel Nicollet here tomorrow night.

The affair is in recognition of Steffes' Variety leadership which, during his three terms, was regarded as a potent factor in the club's charity accomplishments, including $25,000 raised for European war sufferers' relief, $90,000 for the Sister Kenny infantile paralysis treatment institute and free milk for underprivileged Minneapolis families.

Gov. Ed. Thye of Minneapolis will be among those in attendance. A laryngitis attack will prevent Eddie Golden, film producer and close friend of Steffes, from acting as toastmaster.

'Wilson' Acclaimed In London Opening

LONDON, Jan. 4.—"Wilson" opened here today at the Odeon Theatre to great audience acclaim, with unsurpassed newspaper praise following the preview. The Duchess of Kent, received by J. Arthur Rank and Francis L. Harley, 20th-Fox's British managing director, headed the audience, which included the Russian, Chinese and Belgian ambassadors and other members of the diplomatic corps.

Also present were members of the British cabinet, led by Sir John Anderson, chancellor of the exchequer, the chiefs of staff of the American, British and Allied military forces here, the Greek Archbishop and Spyros Skouras, Jr.

Eiges Now Manager Of NBC Press Dept.

Sidney H. Eiges has been appointed manager of NBC's press department here, it was announced by Frank E. Mullen, NBC vice-president and general manager. Eiges has been acting manager of the department since the resignation of John McKay on Dec. 15 to join King Features Syndicate.

The appointment of Dwight B. Herrick as manager of the NBC public service department, of which Herrick had been acting manager, was also announced by Mullen.

Pictorial Films to Pathe Industries

Pathe Industries, Inc., has acquired Pictorial Films, Inc., New York, distributors of 16 mm film. Milton J. Salzburg and Harold Baumstone will continue as president and vice-president, respectively, of Pictorial.

A meeting of the board of directors of Pictorial elected J. Stinsen Young and Karl Herzog, president and treasurer, respectively of Pathe Industries, chairman of the board and treasurer, respectively, of Pictorial.

Meeting of M-G-M Auditors Concluded

M-G-M's annual meeting of field auditors and field 'Commando Girls,' ended here yesterday at the Astor Hotel, but individual meetings will be held today with home office executives. At the final meeting, Walter Brooks, assistant to H. M. Richey, exhibitor relations director; Jacques Van Starton, comptroller for Loew's Station WHN, and Sidney Stockton, New York branch office manager, were introduced to the group.

Speakers yesterday included: Charles K. Stern, assistant treasurer; Alan F. Cummings, in charge of exchange operations; Harold Postman, assistant to Cummings; Charles F. Deesen and Paul J. Richrath, assistants to John J. Maloney, Central sales manager; Joel Bezahler, assistant to J. E. Flynn, Western sales manager; Leonard Hirsch, assistant to E. K. O'Shea, Eastern sales manager; Arthur Lacks, newsreel sales head; Jay Gove, sales development; Mike Simons, editor of *The Distributor*, house publication; Ira Martin, Bea Lustig, Charles Quick, Leonard Pollock and A. J. Nelson, head of the statistical department. Lt. Fran Heard, former Memphis office manager, now in the Navy, was at the meeting.

Ontario Exhibitors Paying 30% Tax

TORONTO, Jan. 4.—The new 10 per cent ticket tax has become effective in Ontario. This makes a total of 30 per cent tax on tickets, since the Canadian Government is already assessing tickets 20 per cent.

The new tax is expected to yield an annual revenue of $2,500,000, to pay for school subsidies. The tax had been dropped in 1937 as a nuisance impost. Exhibitors in all other provinces, except Saskatchewan, are already paying both Dominion and Provincial ticket taxes, with Quebec theatres carrying the heaviest burden.

Honor Weiss 'E' Bond $1,035,000 Sale

Al Weiss of Loew's Pitkin, Brooklyn, was honored yesterday for having sold $1,035,000 in 'E' bonds during the Sixth War Loan Drive, in addition to $219,300 in 'F' and 'G' bonds.

Weiss was presented with a special citation from Henry Morganthau, Secretary of the Treasury and a gold 'Merit of Honor' button by the War Activities Committee. Among those attending the ceremonies were: Brooklyn's Borough president John Cashmore, the Kings County War Finance Committee and Max Cohen, representing the WAC.

Miss Mortland Promoted

Marjorie Anne Mortland has been promoted to head editorial and advertising promotion for the *Ideal* Women's Group of fan magazines. William M. Cotton, publisher, also reported that Virginia Vincent will succeed Miss Moreland as beauty editor for the publications.

NEW YORK THEATRES

THIRD GAY WEEK!
VERA HRUBA RALSTON
Lake Placid Serenade
featuring
Eugene Palette, Vera Vague, Robert Livingston, Stephanie Bachelor, RAY NOBLE and his Orchestra, HARRY OWENS and his Royal Hawaiians
and
ROY ROGERS
(as Guest Star)
A Republic Picture
REPUBLIC THEATRE
B'way, Bet. 51st & 52nd Sts.

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50TH STREET & 6TH AVENUE
M-G-M's
"NATIONAL VELVET"
MICKEY ROONEY
DONALD CRISP - ELIZABETH TAYLOR
JACKIE JENKINS - REGINALD OWEN
and THE MUSIC HALL'S
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
'TOGETHER AGAIN'
IRENE DUNNE
CHAS. BOYER
CHAS. COBURN
IN PERSON
ROSARIO & ANTONIO
Extra!
SALICI PUPPETS

BING CROSBY
BETTY HUTTON
SONNY TUFTS
In Person
Woody HERMAN
and His Orchestra
ALL-STAR REVUE
"Here Come the Waves"
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
HEDY LAMARR
GEORGE BRENT - PAUL LUKAS
"Experiment Perilous"
An RKO Picture

20TH CENTURY-FOX PRESENTS
A. J. Cronin's
"THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM"
Continuous Performances
RIVOLI
B'way & 49th St.

MOSS HART'S
WINGED VICTORY
A 20th CENTURY-FOX PICTURE
Produced by DARRYL F. ZANUCK
Directed by GEORGE CUKOR
In Person
NICHOLAS BROTHERS
Extra JACK DURANT
ROXY 7th AVE. & 50th ST.

Henry Ownes Dies

ATLANTA, Jan. 3.—Henry Ownes, former head booker for Paramount here, died here recently after a lingering illness.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday, and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Theo. Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave.; Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1945 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Arthur Loew and Harry Goldberg Are Named by WAC

(Continued from page 1)

would be able to expand the 16mm gift film service to civilians in liberated countries. He also voiced interest in the OWI-WAC films now in work in which the State Department is specially concerned. Major Loew is expected to return to New York on Jan. 15. He succeeds Joseph McConville of Columbia, who was WAC foreign division head during 1944. Previous chairmen were Joseph Seidelman, vice-president of Universal, and Philip Reisman, vice-president of RKO.

The WAC yesterday also announced the selection of Harry Goldberg, director of publicity-advertising for Warner Theatres as chairman of its public relations division.

Both Major Loew and Goldberg commence their terms immediately. They complete the WAC organization for this year. Gradwell L. Sears, vice president and general manager of United Artists, was elected this week as chairman of the distributors division.

John Cromwell, president of the Screen Directors Guild, is the new chairman of the Hollywood division, while S. H. Fabian, chairman of the theatres division; Walton C. Ament, chairman of the newsreel division, and Jack Alicoate, chairman of the trade press division, will continue in their respective offices through 1945. Goldberg succeeds Oscar Doob, director of publicity-advertising for Loew's Theatres, who has headed the division since Dec. 7, 1942.

Depinet, Bamberger To Be Cited by WAC

(Continued from page 1)

as chairman, and Edward M. Schnitzer succeeds Bamberger as assistant chairman, as reported here yesterday.

Special guests at the luncheon will include N. Peter Rathvon, RKO president; Leo Brecher, Harry Mandel, Arthur Brilant, H. M. Richey, William Michel and Major L. E. Thompson, all of whom are serving in the industry's 1945 Red Cross Drive, and Sears, Schnitzer and Harry Goldberg.

Crosby, Rogers Win 'Fame' British Poll

(Continued from page 1)

Bette Davis, Bob Hope, Humphrey Bogart, Gary Cooper, Spencer Tracy, Abbott-Costello. There were no players in this category winning because of British film appearances.

The following top Western stars were selected: Roy Rogers, William Boyd, Gene Autry, Richard Dix, John Wayne, Gary Cooper, Randolph Scott, Johnny Mack Brown, Joel McCrea, Albert Dekker; all in this group likewise are 'Hollywood-made' performers.

The ten exclusively British players selected for appearance in the British films were: James Mason, David Niven, George Formby, Eric Portman, Laurence Olivier, Margaret Lockwood, Robert Donat, Phyllis Calvert, Anna Neagle, Robert Newton.

Review

"She Gets Her Man"

(Universal)

JOAN DAVIS, voted 'Best Comedienne' in MOTION PICTURE DAILY's recent radio poll, proves equally adept on the screen in "She Gets Her Man," with a fresh, infectious style that evokes hilarity and merriment despite the obvious crudeness of much of the humor. A fast-moving screenplay by Warren Wilson and Clyde Bruckman, with many of the good lines no doubt contributed in the additional dialogue by Ray Singer and Dick Chevillat, affords Miss Davis and Leon Errol, her droll foil, a chance to display their gift for zany comedy.

Miss Davis, a well-intentioned lassie with a genius for bungling, is brought to the town of Clayton to solve a series of mysterious slayings of its leading citizens by a blow-gun murderer. Although ear-marked as a victim herself, she manages to evade the lethal attempts, and, with Errol's aid, stalks the murderer. The chase carries them to a theatre where she disrupts the performance of a play, tangles with a gang, and finally settles back in an orchestra seat to watch irate townsmen and the gang in a free-for-all which she has precipitated.

Director Erle C. Kenton, in full realization that he has a mistress of slapstick in Miss Davis, has handled the film in kind. William Gargan is competent as a harassed reporter, Vivian Austin lends her looks, while Russell Hicks, Virginia Sale, Cyrus Kendall, Paul Stanton, Emmet Vogan, Donald McBride and Milburn Stone round out the cast. Bob Allen effectively sings the standard melody, "For All We Know." Warren Wilson also produced.

Running time, 74 minutes. "G."* Release date not set.

CHARLES RYWECK

"G" denotes general classification.

Call for Action on ITOA's Trade Bill

(Continued from page 1)

film committee and Harry Brandt, I. T. O. A. president, for action. Brandt had been asked by the meeting to clarify a published statement that he believed there would be no need for introducing the bill in the legislature if clearance problems were satisfactorily adjusted between the Department of Justice and distributor defendants in the New York anti-trust action. Brandt, explaining that he had spoken for himself, not the I. T. O. A., said that he believed if harmony prevailed within the industry, regulation from outside sources would serve no practical purposes.

The membership felt that there was no indication of any relief in present consent decree negotiations between the Department and the companies, and called for immediate action on the proposed legislative measure. Criticism of percentage and preferred playing time demands, of first run picture designations and of move-overs by first run exhibitors was voiced at the meeting. The latter practice was condemned by resolution.

Quigley Plaque Is Won by Lige Brien

Lige Brien, manager of Warners' Enright Theatre, Pittsburgh, is the winner of the Quigley Awards showmanship plaque for the fourth quarter. Brien, who was awarded a 'Scroll of Honor' in the third quarter, won the 'Grand Award' in 1939.

Scrolls of Honor for the fourth quarter were voted to Arnold J. Coffey, Carolina Theatre, Hickory, N. C.; Edgar Goth, Fabian, Stapleton, S. I.; James King, RKO Boston, Boston; Jack Matlack, Broadway, Portland, Ore.; Rita Morton, RKO Albee, Providence; 'Chuck' Shannon, Columbia Theatre, Sharon, Pa.; Charles B. Taylor, Shea's, Buffalo. Judges were Harry McWilliams, Columbia exploitation director; Leon Bamberger, RKO sales promotional director, and Irwin Gold, Randforce circuit general manager.

$4,500,000 a Year Cost of Checking

(Continued from page 1)

tails expected to be ironed out within 90 days. The company is understood to have recently employed the services of Willmark Service System to make test checks in the New England area with the ticket-buying method being used instead of 'clocking.' Indications are that while the company will continue to check key city engagements itself, it might utilize an outside source to check other operations. Efforts to reach William F. Rodgers, M-G-M vice-president in charge of distribution, for comment on the reports were unsuccessful.

M-G-M field auditors are presently in New York for meetings with Alan F. Cummings, in charge of exchange operations.

International Again Releasing Via RKO

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 4. — International Pictures is expected to continue distribution through RKO on its 1945-46 program, again composed of at least four pictures and perhaps several more. Definitely scheduled are: "Along Came Jones," now shooting with Gary Cooper in the lead; "Tomorrow Is Forever," co-starring Claudette Colbert, Orson Wells and George Brent, and "The Countess of Monte Cristo," in color, starring Sonja Henie. The fourth will be a Somerset Maugham story, of which the title is being kept a secret at present.

Lowry Leaves USO

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 4.—Ed Lowry today resigned the post he has held three years as executive secretary in charge of West Coast activities of USO-Camp Shows.

Wilson Gets 'Postman'

M-G-M has announced James Cain's "The Postman Always Rings Twice" for production by Carey Wilson with five stars.

N. Y. To Coordinate 'Dimes' on Monday At Meeting Here

A meeting to organize New York in the industry's "March of Dimes" Drive will be held here Monday in Warners home office, it was announced yesterday by co-chairmen Sam Rinzler and Fred Schwartz. Exchange managers, salesmen and others will attend.

Charles Boasberg of RKO, has been appointed New York State distributor chairman by national distributor chairman Tom Connors, who, with Boasberg, Oscar A. Doob, national campaign manager, and Harry Mandel, public relations chairman for New York, will give the details of the drive at the meeting. Connors has also named distributor chairmen for the New York area. They are: Myron Sattler, Paramount, Manhattan; Ray Moon, 20th Century-Fox, Queens; Phil Hodes, RKO, Brooklyn; Dave Burkan, United Artists, Richmond; Jack Bowan, M-G-M, Bronx; Sam Lefkowitz, United Artists, Nassau-Suffolk; and Irving Wormser, Film Classics, for upstate as far as Poughkeepsie.

6,000,000 Seats

Additional pledges for the drive now bring the total theatres enrolled to more than 6,000 with almost 6,000,000. seats. Six states have already reported more pledges than during the entire drive last year; they are: South Dakota, Arizona, Rhode Island, Delaware, District of Columbia, Virginia and Alabama.

The drive's trailer, "The Miracle of Hickory," has arrived in New York. Some 13,000 prints are being prepared. National Screen will distribute all by Jan. 11 or 12.

Southwest 'Dimes' Meet

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4.—The theatre committee on the "March of Dimes" campaign for Southern California, Southern Nevada and Arizona met today in the office of Fox West Coast Theatres here and dispatched a letter to 750 houses in the area outlining plans for the collections Jan. 25-31.

'Dimes' Post to Cantor

Eddie Cantor has been appointed chairman of the "March of Dimes of the Air," for the eighth consecutive year, it was reported yesterday by Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Gov. Lausche Honors Folliard, RKO Drive

CLEVELAND, Jan. 4.—Arriving here today on the third lap of a tour covering RKO exchanges in behalf of the 1945 'Ned Depinet Drive,' drive captain Robert Folliard was honored by governor-elect Frank J. Lausche at the Hotel Statler.

On hand to confer with Folliard and drive lieutenant Harry Gittleson were RKO Eastern central district manager Bernie Kranze and branch managers A. Kolitz, Cleveland; S. C. Jacques, Cincinnati; M. E. Cohen, Detroit; R. E. Brentlinger, Indianapolis, and their respective sales staffs and bookers. Following the meeting Folliard and Gittleson left for Chicago, next stop on their tour.

The Box-Office Show of Shows

in NEW YORK
LOS ANGELES
INDIANAPOLIS
KANSAS CITY
WICHITA
DENVER
SAN FRANCISCO
SACRAMENTO
SEATTLE
MILWAUKEE
ROCHESTER
SYRACUSE
CINCINNATI
DAYTON

Everywhere!

Washington, Memphis, Miami, Louisville, Boston, St. Louis will soon add to the proof that this is one of the great ones in The Most Eventful Year of

20th CENTURY-FOX

DARF

MOSS HART'S

INGED CTORY

DIRECTED BY

GEORGE CUKOR

PRODUCED BY

F. ZANUCK ☆

WANTED: 11,000,000 SEATS IN 1945
MARCH OF DIMES. JOIN NOW!

Loop Booms; 'Tomorrow' Does $65,000

CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—Loop houses had one of their biggest weeks. A zero cold wave came too late to hurt capacity trade. "And Now Tomorrow" grossed $13,500 over par.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 4:

"The Very Thought of You" (WB)
APOLLO—(1,200) (55c-85c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $11,400).
"And Now Tomorrow" (Para.)
CHICAGO — (3,850) . (55c-85c-95c) 2nd week. On stage: Johnny Long and orchestra. Gross: $65,000. (Average: $51,-500).
"Murder in the Blue Room" (Univ.)
DOWNTOWN—(1,800) (44c-55c-85c-95c) 2nd Loop run. On stage: Ray Kinney and orchestra. Gross: $19,500.
"Irish Eyes Are Smiling" (20th-Fox)
GARRICK—(1,000) (55c-65c-95c) 2nd Loop week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $9,-100).
"The Woman in the Window" (RKO)
"My Gal Loves Music" (Univ.) 2 days, 3rd Loop week
"House of Frankenstein" (Univ.)
"The Mummy's Curse" (Univ.) 5 days
GRAND—(1,250) (50c-65c-85c-95c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $9,100).
"Three's a Family" (UA)
ORIENTAL—(3,200) (44c-55c-85c-95c). On stage: Harry Howard's Revue. Gross: $23,-000. (Average: $24,000).
"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
"Enter Arsene Lupin" (Univ.)
PALACE—(2,500) (55c-65c-90c) ("Enter Arsene Lupin" was eliminated during holiday week-end). Gross: $30,000. (Average: $24,000).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
ROOSEVELT—1,500) (55c-65c-95c). Gross: $25,000. (Average: $20,000).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
STATE LAKE—(2,700) (55c-65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $35,000. (Average: $29,000).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,700) (50c-65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $30,000. (Average: $25,-000).
"The Princess and the Pirate" (RKO)
WOODS—(1,200) (55c-65c-95c) 6th week. Gross: $19,500. (Average: $10,000).

Murray Will Have Arlington Burial

(*Continued from page* 1)

years later was made director. When the Special Services Division of the Army Service Forces was organized in 1941, he was appointed chief of the Army Motion Picture Branch while continuing as service director.

Since the war, the organization has increased from the operation of 92 theatres at 87 Army posts to 1,050 theatres at 602 posts, with a yearly audience of approximately 200,000,-000 soldiers attending 7,000 shows weekly. He is survived by his widow, three sons, two of whom are in the Army, and two brothers. Murray was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Holy Name Society, Society of Motion Picture Engineers and the Variety Club of Washington.

Altec Signs B. and K.

Altec Service Corp. has signed the Balaban and Katz circuit in Chicago, to service 81 houses.

WANTED
ANIMATION-CAMERAMAN
High Pay—Excellent Opportunity
CINEFFECTS
1600 Broadway New York City
Circle 6-6252

Heaviest Raw Stock Cut To Hit Big Consumers

(*Continued from page* 1)

shall now be worked out by Burrows and submitted to the committeemen, who will consider them and make further recommendations to Washington by mail. When a single plan is devised, the committee will be called here for a final look at it. The suggestion was made that additional members be named to represent independent producers, but this was not acted upon.

For the present, Burrows said after the meeting, the industry will continue to operate under the letters of authorization sent out last week, permitting the companies to use, during the first half of this quarter, up to 50 per cent of the raw stock they consumed in the last quarter of 1944.

The session today was confronted with the most serious problem that has faced the committee since its formation, more serious in some respects than the general curtailment of 25 per cent of 1941 consumption which was ordered when raw stock was put under government control in 1942, it was said, because at that time the companies had an ability to cut down their consumption which they do not now enjoy. Since then waste has been practically eliminated.

Burrows told the members that there is no possibility of avoiding a further cut now, estimated at something like 20,000,000 feet, and the main desire of the WPB is to handle the matter so as not unduly to injure any of the smaller companies.

The one bright spot in the proceeding was the possibility that the supply situation might improve during the quarter, but Burrows explained that this prospect could not be used as a reason to forego a cut now. If supplies increase, it was said, any reductions ordered now might be eased or entirely eliminated.

Also considered was the setting of ceilings on the number of prints to be used and the provision of a source of raw stock supply for independent producers who may switch from one distributor to another.

It was decided that the new raw stock cut will be based on 1941 consumption, as have previous allocations. Also brought out was the fact that any 1944 allocations not fully used at the end of the year have been cancelled.

Name Titus Head Of Republic Exchanges

(*Continued from page* 1)

ing which is to follow New York and Chicago meetings, will announce other promotions from the ranks in accordance with company policy.

Republic Opens Peru, Colombia Offices

Morris Goodman, Republic vice-president in charge of foreign sales, yesterday announced the opening of Republic branch offices in Peru and Colombia. Republic Pictures del Peru, Inc., will start operations this month, with Mario Feraboli, former manager in the Argentine in charge. Republic Pictures de Colombia will start in February, managed by Ricardo Canals, formerly with Republic in Panama.

Goodman returned recently from a three-month trip to South America which included a survey of conditions and the inauguration of Republic Mexican production.

Wright Awarded DFC

Flying Officer J. E. F. Wright, former cameraman with Technicolor, was recently awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross by King George in ceremonies at Buckingham Palace. With him was his father, E. J. H. Wright, British war correspondent and news editor of British Paramount News, who was the first war correspondent to win a decoration in the war. Father and son have each completed 43 bombing missions over enemy territory.

Red Cross Film Feb. 1

The Red Cross film produced by the March of Time for release through RKO has been titled "Seeing Them Through," it was reported here yesterday by the War Activities Committee. Release date, originally set for Jan. 25, has been moved up to Feb. 1, due to the March of Dimes drive, Jan. 25-31.

Zukor Cites Need of Postwar Teamwork

(*Continued from page* 1)

perfect illusion is never overlooked," he pointed out.

Observing that prospects for the industry in the postwar period look much brighter now than they did after World War I, Zukor explained that technical facilities and talent were not adequate to meet requirements after the last wer. The industry suffered from a lack of high-calibre writers then and sufficient time was not devoted to the preparation of scripts, he said. "The director had to make pictures and at the same time construct the story. Today, such a situation does not exist," he declared. He pointed out that productions are well planned in advance and artists can "live" the characters they are to depict and can portray them better as a result of their preparation.

"The motion picture will continue to be the greatest medium of mass entertainment and of education," Zukor predicted.

Zukor does not believe that television will offer any great competition to the industry in the postwar. He pointed out that films have not offered competition to the legitimate theatre. He sees television as an added attraction in theatres.

Drop Clearance Charge

The L. G. M. Memorial Theatre Corp., operating the L. G. M. Memorial Theatre, Lowell, Mass., has withdrawn a clearance complaint filed in the Boston tribunal against Warners, the American Arbitration Association reported yesterday. A general stipulation was signed by all parties.

Chi. Variety to Induct

CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—James Balmer of Pittsburgh, national Variety Club representative, will induct local Variety officers and directors at installation ceremonies on Jan. 19 at the Blackstone Hotel.

'Frisco Theatres Gross 50% Over; $45,000 for 'Toyko'

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 4.—All existing house records were cracked in this war-busy Bay region, with theatres loaded with service men. Business was nearly 50 per cent better than last New Year's Eve. Twenty-nine individual house records were broken on Sunday and Monday. Top grosser here was the Fox with "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," taking in excess of $16,000 on New Year's Eve and $9,-000 on New Year's Day. Same picture also broke records at the Paramount, Oakland, with more than $9,-000 on Sunday and in excess of $5,000 on Monday.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 3-6:

"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
"Murder in the Blue Room" (Univ.)
ORPHEUM—(2,440) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $28,200. (Average: $15,000).
"Dark Waters" (UA)
"My Gal Loves Music" (Univ.)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,200) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $10,100. (Average: $14,500).
"Belle of the Yukon" (RKO)
GOLDEN GATE—(2,850) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $38,000. (Average: $27,000).
"Brazil" (Rep.)
WARFIELD—(2,680) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $29,500. (Average: $25,000).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
PARAMOUNT—(2,748) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $31,000. (Average: $20,000).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
FOX—(5,000) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $45,000. (Average: $28,000).
"'Till We Meet Again" (Para.)
"Hail the Conquering Hero" (Para.)
STATE—(2,308) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days. Moveover from Paramount. Gross: $16,-000. (Average: $13,000).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
"Adventures of Kitty O'Day" (Mono.)
ST. FRANCIS—(1,400) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days, on a moveover from the Fox. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $12,000).

Will Sell 359,000 RKO Common Shares

(*Continued from page* 1)

by the Rockefeller interests in the name of Rockefeller Center. Dillon Read handled the sale of some RCA and Rockefeller Foundation holdings of RKO securities, consisting of 316,-328 shares of common, 555,253 option warrants and 44,757 shares of six per cent preferred, in April, 1943. Floyd B. Odlum's Atlas Corp. is another large holder of RKO common stock.

Mark Sandrich Heads Academy Stage Show

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 4.—The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences today appointed Marck Sandrich production manager in charge of the stage show which will precede the Academy's annual awards ceremony at the Chinese Theatre March 15.

WLB Orders Petrillo To End Radio Strike

CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—James C. Petrillo, head of the American Federation of Musicians, was ordered today by the Regional War Labor Board to make striking employes of Radio Station KSTP in Minneapolis comply with a no-strike order issued Dec. 20, and to advise the board of his action within 48 hours.

Mexican Writers Hit Political Film Ban

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 4. — President Manuel Avila Camacho is considering a petition from scenarists-adaptaters section No. 45 of the National Cinematographic Industry Workers Union, requesting removal of the censor's ban on "Las Abanadas" ("The Abandoned Girls").

The picture, featuring Dolores del Rio, had its premiere at the Cine Chapultepec, newest first-run theatre here, and was then prohibited from further showings because it contains an alleged slur on the Mexican Revolution. Subsequently, Federico Rodriguez, presented the film in Monterrey, Northeastern industrial center, but the run was stopped by the Governor of Neuvo Leon after he received orders by phone from the censors. Unable to get another feautre, Rodriguez had to refund admission money paid by a large audience.

The writers' union, in its petition to the President, claims the ban violates constitutional rights to liberty of expression.

CBS Affiliates to Meet

Columbia Broadcasting's affiliate advisory board will hold its first session of the new year here next Wednesday and Thursday at the network headquarters with program plans for the year scheduled to be discussed.

Mono. Will Handle Mexican Releases

Monogram has negotiated a deal with Films Victoria of Mexico to distribute its product in that country, according to Dave Horne, Monogram foreign department representative, who returned recently from Mexico City after three weeks there. Jack Lamont, the company's Mexico City branch manager, handled negotiations for Monogram.

Horne assisted in opening the office in Mexico City. Business there still maintains a high level, he said. Monogram has signed many contracts for its product there and has shipped a print of "Lady Let's Dance," dubbed in Spanish, for a January opening, he said.

Capone Gang Appeal Their Conviction

The six convicted members of the Capone gang in Chicago, who got more than $1,000,000 from the industry before being apprehended, yesterday filed a petition for a rehearing on the upholding of their conviction with the Circuit Court of Appeals in New York, claiming, through counsel, that the Circuit Court had "misapprehended the evidence." The decision of the court had been unanimous.

The six are: Louis Campagnola, Paul De Lucia, Phil D'Andrea, Francis Maritote, Charles Coe and Louis Kaufman.

New High in Salary For Mexican Star

Mexico City, Jan. 4.—Jorge Negrete, singing film actor, has signed a contract calling for a monthly salary of $2,550 for performances over Mexico's largest radio station, XEW, beginning in April. This marks a new high in pay for a radio entertainer in this country.

Seek Improvement of Religious Air Shows

The formation of the first interdenominational committee to produce religious radio programs with professional talent and to supervise a program of instruction for ministers and religious educators for more effective use of the broadcast medium is announced by Ronald Bridges, moderator of the Congregational Christian Churches. The purpose of these plans of three major Protestant denominations is to improve the quality of religious broadcasting where it will compete successfully with the best radio broadcasts in other fields, it was said.

Fishbaugh to Warners

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 4. — F. Fishbaugh, Jr., has joined the local Warner exchange as assistant field supervisor.

Milwaukee Grosses Good, 'Canteen' Best

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 4.—Good grosses are registering at nearly all theatres here this week, with "Hollywood Canteen's" $15,000 on top at the Warner Theatre.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 4:

"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
"Dancing in Manhattan" (Col.)
WISCONSIN—(3,200) (40c-60c-80c) 6 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $14,000).

"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
"Tahiti Nights" (Col.)
PALACE—(2,400) (40c-60c-80c) 6 days. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $11,500).

"Something for the Boys" (20th-Fox)
"Lost in a Harem" (M-G-M)
STRAND—(1,400) (40c-60c-80c) 6 days. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $4,500).

"The Conspirators" (WB)
"Lake Placid Serenade" (Rep.)
ALHAMBRA—(1,900) (50c-72c) 6 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,000).

"The Merry Monahans" (Univ.)
RIVERSIDE—(2,700) (65c-85c) 6 days. Harry Cool and other acts on stage. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,000).

"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
WARNER—(2,400) (50c-72c) 6 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $14,000).

Bodkin Leaves UA

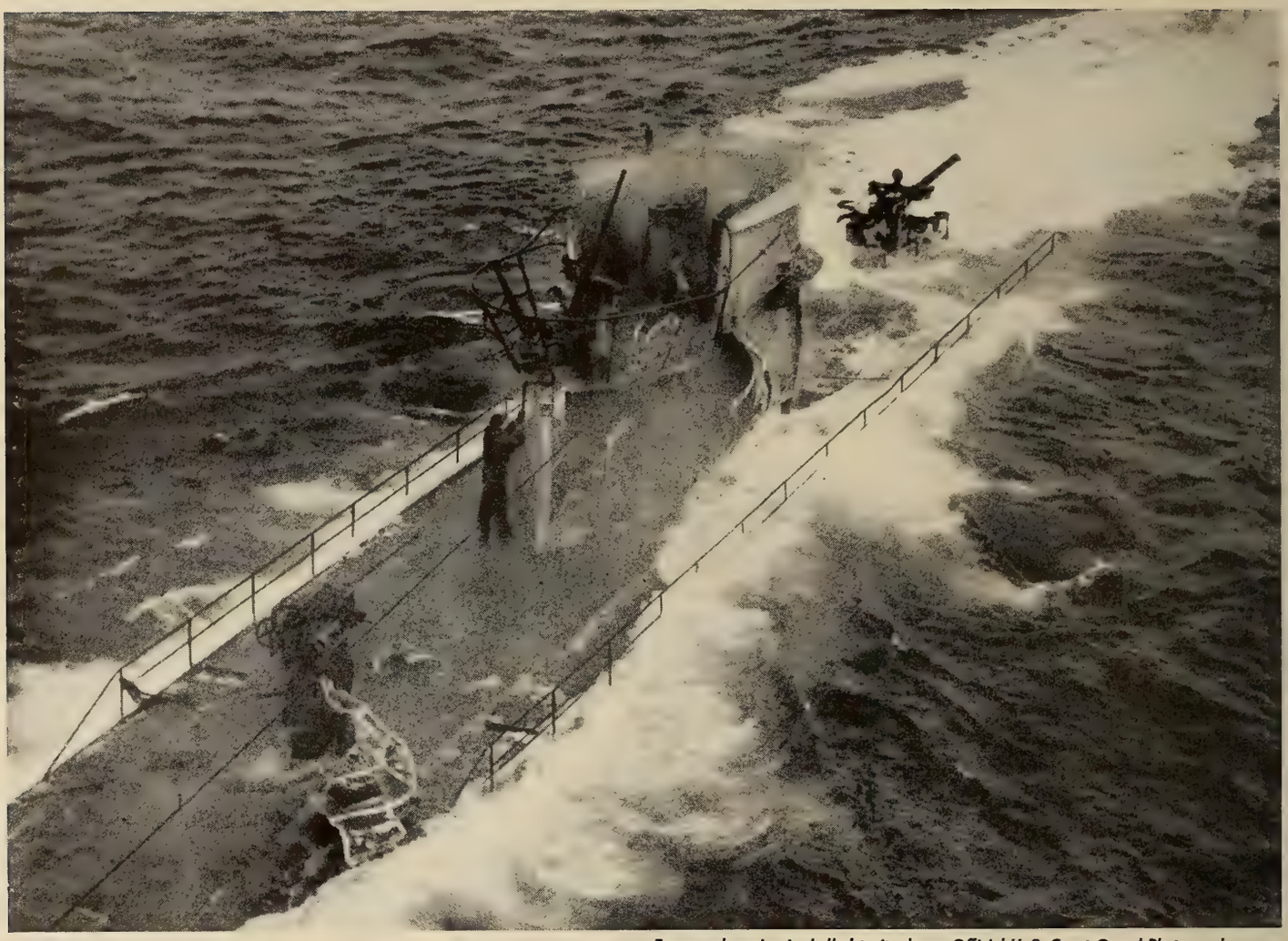
PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 4.—Harry Bodkin, United Artists branch manager here, has resigned, effective immediately. Bodkin, who is succeeded by Mort Magill, UA Pittsburgh manager, is reported to be joining a local independent circuit as a partner.

GALE STORM
LEAPS TO GLAMOROUS STARDOM!
One of the many screen favorites, including John Mack Brown, Sir Aubrey Smith, Frank Craven, Mary Boland, Conrad Nagel and Johnny Downs, in 1945's first great dramatic hit!
"THEY SHALL HAVE FAITH"
COMING SOON FROM MONOGRAM!

Sir AUBREY SMITH
AT HIS GRUFFEST AND GRANDEST!
One of the many screen favorites, including *Gale Storm, John Mack Brown, Frank Craven, Mary Boland, Conrad Nagel and Johnny Downs*, in 1945's first great dramatic triumph!

COMING SOON FROM MONOGRAM!
"THEY SHALL HAVE FAITH"

Caught flat-footed by our gunners and a combat cameraman



Enemy submarine is shelled to its doom. Official U. S. Coast Guard Photograph.

THE combat photographer is two men—he's a trained and toughened fighting man. He's an expert cameraman. He has to have the strength and skill of a fighting man to get his pictures when the fighting is at its thickest. As a cameraman, he has to be so expert that he is virtually a picture-taking machine, functioning at high efficiency under incredibly difficult conditions.

Everyone sees his pictures; but few outside the motion picture industry realize how many combat cameramen are former movie cameramen, how many have been trained by veteran movie photographers.

And, of course, processing, editing, cutting, adding supplementary sound—weaving separate shots into finished productions—are largely in the hands of movie-trained people. The archives of this war will be illustrated by the most magnificent war pictures ever made, and much of their excellence will be due to the co-operation of the motion picture industry.

Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y.

J. E. BRULATOUR, INC., *Distributors*

FORT LEE CHICAGO HOLLYWOOD

One of a series of advertisements by KODAK testifying to the achievements of the movies at war

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 5 NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1945 TEN CENTS

Connors Sets Nationwide 'Dimes' Aides

Distributors Active in Jan. 25-31 Drive

Tom Connors, distribution chairman for the 1945 March of Dimes Week, announced at the weekend the complete lineup of a Coast-to-Coast distributor organization to aid exhibitors in the drive, as follows:

Tom Connors

I. H. Rogovin, Boston; M. Evidon, Des Moines; Lester Zucker, Cleveland, all Columbia; Earl A. Bell, Denver; F. J. Hannon, Omaha; Lester J. Bona, St. Louis; William F. Gordon, Salt Lake City; R. Smelzer, Washington, all

(*Continued on page* 8)

Ten from Small to Cost $10,000,000

Edward Small announced here over the weekend, through the United Artists home office, that he will produce not less than ten 'major' features, at a cost in excess of $10,000,000. Entire program will be released by UA.

First of the films, to get under way early in March, will be Alexander Dumas' "Cagliostro," starring George

(*Continued on page* 12)

New Lesser Company To Spend 5 Millions

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—Sol Lesser has completed formation of a new Sol Lesser Productions, Inc., with himself as president, Louis R. Lurie, vice-president, and Jean Hersholt, Mendel Silberberg, and Michael Rosenberg on the board of directors. The new corporation is capitalized at $1,000,000.

Lesser announced at the weekend that he will spend $5,000,000 on pictures and stage plays during 1945. At present, he is releasing through United Artists.

Extra Admission Sought for R. C.

N. Peter Rathvon's national committee for the 1945 Red Cross drive hopes to encourage every theatregoer during the March 15-21 campaign week, to contribute at least the price of one admission ticket to the theatre collections, which will be taken up at each performance at most of the country's 16,000 theatres.

S. Barret McCormick and Harry Mandel, national drive publicity directors, and Arthur M. Brilant, publicity coordinator, have started promotional activities for the campaign.

WLB Orders Green To Prevent Strike

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—Possibility of a studio set decorators' strike tomorrow, pending a weekend strike vote, appears to have lessened with receipt of word from Washington that the War Labor Board has ordered William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, to make a decision "at once" in the jurisdictional dispute between the Set Decorators Union and IATSE or to refer the matter to a resident arbitrator the WLB will appoint.

Herbert Sorrell, president of the Conference of Studio Unions, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY the decorators would not strike as planned if he received positive information that Green or an arbitrator would act immediately.

Crescent Asks for Rehearing of Its Supreme Court Case

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The U. S. Supreme Court is expected to announce tomorrow whether it will accept a petition for a rehearing of the appeal by Crescent Amusement Co. in the Government anti-trust suit against it, which the high court decided last month in favor of the Department of Justice.

Crescent's petition for a rehearing, filed on Friday, is based on three grounds, the defendants contending that the court either had given a new interpretation to its own rules or had misinterpreted defendants' contention that the Government had not proved its allegations; that the court had made an unwarranted inference with respect to defendants' use of their buying power, and that the court had not given sufficient weight to defendants' contention that the independents who went out of business in towns in which

(*Continued on page* 12)

LeSieur Named UA Advertising Head

Howard R. LeSieur has been appointed Advertising Manager of United Artists, it was announced here at the weekend by Louis Pollock, director of advertising-publicity. LeSieur, who has been with the company since 1933, relinquished his sales promotion work and post as editor of the United Artists' house publication. Duties of the advertising post had heretofore been divided.

Before joining United Artists, LeSieur was with Buchanan and Co., advertising agency, as contact on the Paramount Picture account.

All the Freon Needed to Be Made Available

But Exhibitors Will Have To Provide Containers

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Freon for theatre and other comfort-cooling purposes will be made available in sufficient quantities to meet all needs within the next few days, under an amendment to the freon-control order now being readied in the War Production Board.

With all of the facilities which have been building over the past year now in operation, freon production is running in the neighborhood of 5,000,000 pounds per month, with a possibility of 5,500,000 pounds if the plants operate at capacity, and the flow of gas is so great it has become impossible to provide containers for its storage.

The proposed amendment to the order will permit exhibitors and others to acquire the gas, to be put

(*Continued on page* 12)

UA District Heads Meet Here Today

United Artists will hold a two-day district managers sales meeting starting today.

Attending the conference, at the home office, will be district managers Sam Lefkowitz, New York; James Winn, Boston; Jack D. Goldhar, Detroit; Fred M. Jack, Dallas; T. R.

(*Continued on page* 8)

Grainger to Open Republic Meeting

James R. Grainger, Republic president and general sales manager, will open the first session of three regional sales meetings here, today, at the New York Athletic Club, where field and home office executives will review

(*Continued on page* 8)

Uncle Sam Is World's No. 1 Exhibitor, With Weekly Audience of 7,700,000

Washington, Jan. 7.—With regular film showings stepped up in several of the theatres of war to more than once a week, an audience estimated at 7,700,000 weekly is now on Uncle Sam's books for the Armed Forces in practically every spot where a U. S. serviceman is posted, making him what is described here as the world's largest single exhibitor. Hollywood films are being used at the rate of about 150 weekly, with hundreds of Hollywood short subjects and U. S.-sponsored features of shorts additional.

Uncle Sam is now also considered to be the world's No. 1 producer-distributor, producing over 1,000 films alone this year, plus millions of feet of combat film—from which the five newsreels regularly obtain their footage for screens of this country.

By plane and train, jeep and motorcycle, truck, car and ship the Armed Forces now deliver prints, in some cases practically right to front lines of Europe, Alaska, Great Britain and to the widely scattered sites of the Pacific, China and India, wherever U. S. servicemen are fighting or are stationed in places captured, liberated or occupied.

Reviewed Today

Reviews of "Marked for Murder" and "His Brother's Ghost" appear on page 7.

Personal Mention

G. RALPH BRANTON, HARRY WARREN and JOSEPH DEITSCH are New York visitors. They are general manager of Tri-States Theatre Corp., Des Moines, executive of Central States Theatres, and buyer and booker for Central States, respectively.

•

ALBERT SACHSON, assistant general sales manager of Warners, left New York yesterday for meetings in Western exchanges, picking up Western division manager HENRY HERBEL at Denver.

•

WOLFE COHEN, vice-president of Warner Bros. International Corp., will return today from Cuba, Venezuela and Mexico, and will leave soon for South America, Australia and the Far East.

•

J. REG. WILSON, manager of Savannah Theatres in that Georgia city, is observing his 25th anniversary in the industry, having started with Educational Films in 1920 in New York.

•

CHARLES CURRAN has been discharged from the Navy, where he was a lieutenant, j.g., and has joined the New York office of Wilding Pictures.

•

SIDNEY BLUMENSTOCK, assistant exploitation manager of 20th Century-Fox, is in Chicago on publicity campaigns for the mid-West.

•

WILLIAM ERBB, Paramount Eastern division manager, will leave early this week for Pittsburgh.

•

MAX FELLERMAN and JOSEPH KINSKY, Paramount theatre executives, left over the weekend for Cincinnati.

•

JULES LEVEY, head of Warner Theatres' real estate department, left yesterday for Seattle and Butte.

Generalis Made 20th Foreign Press Head

George A. Generalis, former editor of *National Herald*, Greek daily, has been appointed director of foreign papers in the United States and Canada for 20th Century-Fox, it was announced at the weekend by Hal Horne, director of advertising, publicity and exploitation.

Generalis will also assist Charles Schlaifer, Horne's assistant, in general advertising in the foreign press.

Forming Academy of Radio Arts, Sciences

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—Radio actors, announcers, directors, writers, technicians and others will meet here Wednesday night to organize an Academy of Radio Arts and Sciences, similar to the film industry's Academy.

Lee and Losh, public relations counsel engaged by MBC, CBS and the Blue, to survey the broadcasting industry and plan the organization, will be in charge.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

THE globe-trotting of the numerous J. Arthur Rank business emmissaries, which has caused many in the American industry to raise quizzical eyebrows now and then, appears to have reached a peak of some kind in the current peregrinations of Teddy Carr about the Continent.

Members of the American industry who would very much like to visit the Continent as Carr did, on business, were told some time ago that transportation accommodations were not to be had and that British business men would find it equally impossible to travel to the Continent. But from MOTION PICTURE DAILY's London office last week came a news cable which read as follows:

"E. T. Carr, representing J. Arthur Rank, has returned to London (from France) for consultations with Rank and British and French government officials regarding plans for the distribution and exhibition of British films in France, which he discussed in Paris during the past month. Carr will return to France within a few days for final ratification of an agreement which is said to have the approval of the French government."

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Apparently someone was a bit inaccurate in saying that British business men would find passports, visas and accommodations as difficult to obtain as would American business men. There should be some explanation of how it is possible for Carr to enter and leave the Continent apparently at his convenience while that territory remains inaccessible to members of the American industry. One is inclined to speculate whether or not the explanation lies with the British Board of Trade, that arm of the London government which has been so helpful to the British industry and so threatening to the American industry.

The situation recalls charges made recently by William La Varre, former assistant to Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones, in addressing the Export Managers Club in New York. La Varre said that American business men could not obtain passports for certain trade territories throughout the world, nor even pass in transit through British territory until their applications for passports in Washington have been approved by the B. of T. in London.

Washington, he said, is flooded with applications for passports by American business men that have not been issued or have been held up for months. The reason, he said, is "because certain officials think that certain men are too competitive in these areas, and until the Board of Trade clears a passport it cannot be issued."

•

If this is true, it is a condition which should not be permitted to continue, for the partisanship of the Board of Trade for the British film industry, and its past unfriendliness to the American industry are too well known to permit an assumption that it would use its extraordinary power over the issuance of passports impartially where members of the American industry are concerned. It would appear to be a matter for instant study by the State Department and, if La Varre's charges are substantiated, one for immediate correction.

It is one more instance of point being given by official circumstances to that observation made some time ago by one of the industry's friends in Washington concerning the contrast between British and American government treatment of their respective film industries. Said he: "In England they knight them. In America they indict them."

• •

The untimely death in New York last week of Albert J. Law, counsel and executive secretary for the Southern California Theatre Owners Association, cut short a movement for introduction of a new plan for conciliation of trade practice complaints that promised, on the basis of Law's early conversations with home office sales executives, to receive thorough consideration and, perhaps, a trial.

Any method of conciliation of trade disputes which is fair and workable is a valuable and constructive addition to trade relations. It is to be hoped that the SCTOA, as the sponsor of the plan on which Law was working at the time of his death, will see fit to continue to press for its adoption; that the good work Law accomplished, even though it be interrupted, will not be lost.

Negro Patronage Flushes Chi. Loop

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—Because the increase of colored trade in top Loop and neighborhood houses here has jumped almost 50 per cent within the last year, competition for that business, particularly in the Harlem area, is at an alltime high. The average Negro theatregoer has more amusement money to spend than ever before and he shops among the ace houses.

B. & K.'s Regal, leading colored house here, is losing a good deal of its trade today to the Downtown, N. S. Barger's Loop house, which recently changed its stage policy to Negro bands and attractions. While the Regal still spots colored stage shows (Erskine Hawkins comes in this week and Cab Calloway follows in the week of Feb. 2), the location of the Downtown with its 95 cent admission top has been drawing hundreds of former neighborhood patrons into the Loop. To get some of that extra business, B. & K.'s Chicago Theatre is looking around for top Negro names (Cab Calloway played there last month) and the independent Oriental gives top billing to name Negro acts whenever available. Recent bills there featured Louis Jordan, "Tip, Tap and Toe," Bill Robinson, the Mills Brothers, Maurice Rocco and Dorothy Donegan.

Warner's Met in the Harlem area has no stage policy but is on a constant search for good Negro shorts which are billed above the feature.

Arthur to See Hardy On Decision Appeal

Harry Arthur will leave for St. Louis today to confer with Russell Hardy, his attorney, on steps to be taken on the appeal of Arthur's St. Louis Amusement Co. to the Supreme Court, from a denial of a plea to intervene in the Government's consent decree litigation. Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard heard Hardy's arguments here on Dec. 20, and denied the application from the bench.

Arthur's pending St. Louis suit against the American Arbitration Association, the Government and the decree distributors, is scheduled to be heard on Jan. 23, and Arthur said here at the weekend that no move would be made in his decree intervention appeal until after that date.

Franchise Suit Trial Now Off to February

Suit of the Leader Theatre Corp. against 20th Century-Fox and the Randforce Circuit, scheduled to go to trial today in New York Supreme Court, will be postponed to about Feb. 1. Reason for the delay is that Samuel Rinzler of Randforce will be examined before trial on Wednesday, and the plaintiff will require additional time to get its case ready.

Action claims that 20th-Fox shifted a franchise from the Leader to another theatre in the Randforce circuit, after the Leader had been sold to the plaintiff. Suit will seek to determine whether a franchise can be legally transferred.

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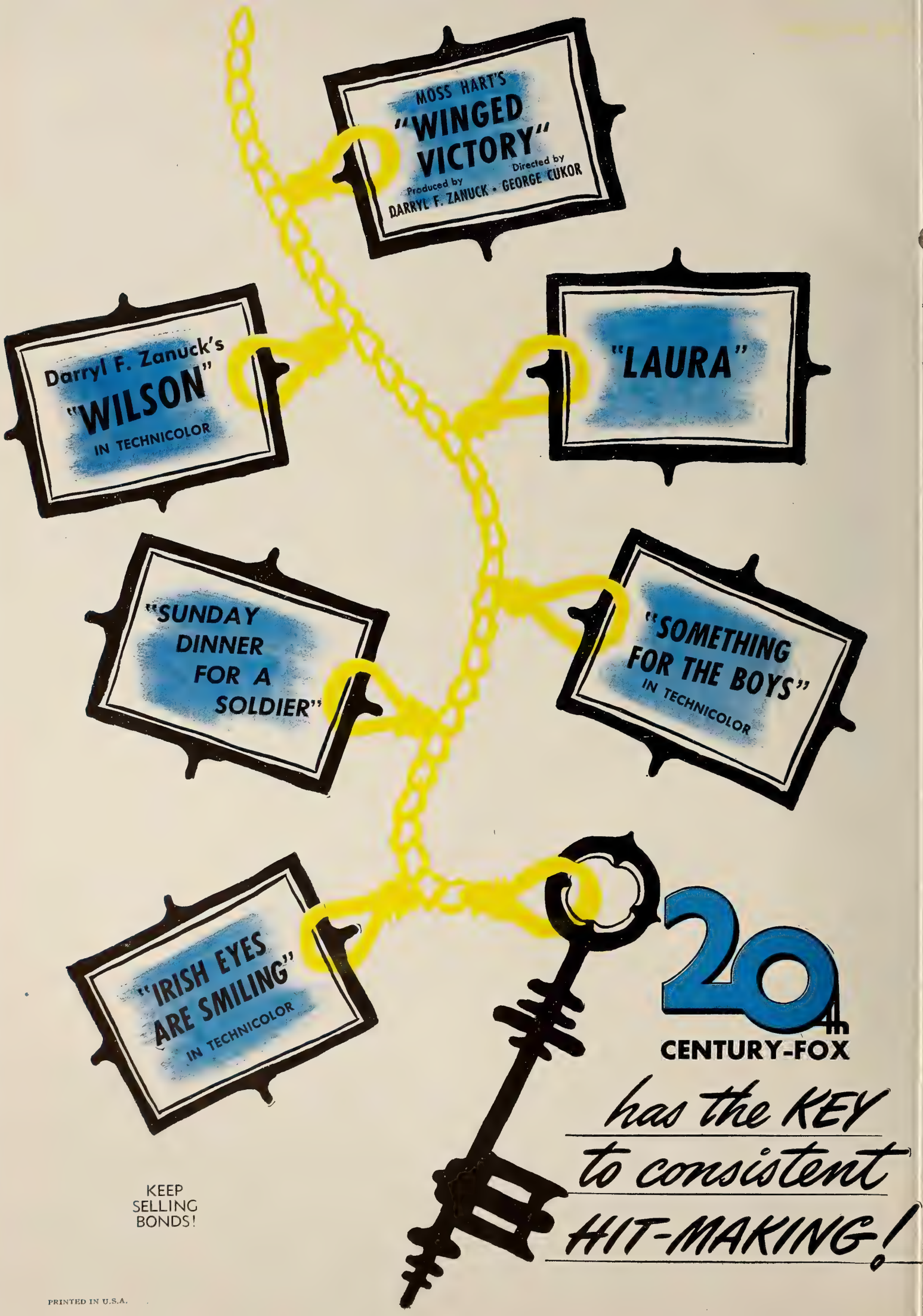
20th Century-Fox
DOES THE GREAT PRE-SELLING THAT
MAKES GREAT
BOOKS GREATER!



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Tri-State Meeting Opens at Memphis

MEMPHIS, Jan. 7.—Annual convention of Tri-State Theatre Owners, affiliated with the MPTOA, opened here today and will continue tomorrow. After an informal gathering this afternoon, members attended the Roy Acuff show at Ellis Auditorium, sponsored by the Memphis Variety Club Milk Fund.

Tomorrow the members will hold a formal business conference, with Louis Haven, Jr., of Forrest City, Ark., presiding. Among those scheduled to attend are: Ed Kuykendall, Columbus, Miss., president of the MPTOA; R. L. McCoy, district manager, Warner Bros., Atlanta; Charles E. Kessnich, district manager, M-G-M, Atlanta; Duke Clark, district manager, Paramount, Dallas; B. F. Busby, district manager, PRC, Little Rock; Ben Cammack, district manager, RKO, Dallas; Dave Palfreyman, MPPDA, New York; Claude F. Lee, Paramount, New York; Jim Donahue, Texas exhibitor, Dallas; Harold F. Cohen, district manager, Monogram, New Orleans; Phil Longdon, district manager, 20th Century-Fox, Dallas; Harry Graham, district manager, Universal, Atlanta.

Armour Is OWI Film Head Abroad

Reginald Armour, former RKO European manager, now with the Office of War Information overseas film bureau, has been assigned to take charge of all OWI film distribution of Hollywood features and OWI documentaries in Continental Europe, the Near East and England by Robert Riskin, chief of the film bureau, it was learned here at the weekend.

Armour is now in England where, after conferring with Riskin, he was given his new assignment.

'Navy' At Lakehurst For Sailors, Press

Thirty trade paper, newspaper, syndicate and magazine representatives will be guests of Admiral Rosenthal, head of the U. S. Navy Lighter-Than-Air base at Lakehurst, N. J., this evening, for a special showing of M-G-M's "This Man's Navy," part of which was photographed at the base. Preceding the screening, they will tour the base and dine at the officer's club. Frances Gifford, M-G-M player, Herbert Crooker, Dorothy Day, Bill McCormick, Melmin Heymann and William Ornstein of the company's home office will also make the trip.

Some 4,000 sailors and officers will attend the showing.

NBC Host to Press

Representatives of New York trade and newspapers and magazines were guests of National Broadcasting at a dinner at Toots Shor's Friday night in connection with the broadcast of "People Are Funny." NBC was also host to the press over the weekend in connection with broadcasts of "Gaslight Gayeties" and the "Harold Lloyd Comedy Theatre." Principals of all three shows, which usually originate from the West Coast, are in New York on visits.

Reviews

"His Brother's Ghost"

(PRC)

THE team of Sigmund Neufeld and Sam Newfield is deserving of much credit for continuing their interesting and even novel low-budget Westerns. Successfully utilizing all of the established elements of the routine "horse-opera," this series strikes a new and refreshing note in each release.

Archie Hall, deputy sheriff, and Karl Hackett, local doctor in disrepute, scheming to acquire Al (Fuzzy) St. John's property, hire Charles King to get rid of St. John's share croppers. When nightly raids and murders disrupt the serenity of his valley, Fuzzy calls on Buster Crabbe for aid. Shot by the raiders, the rancher, on his deathbed, asks his twin brother, also played by St. John, to help Crabbe break up the gang. Faking as his brother's "ghost," Fuzzy frightens the already-suspected members of the mob into a confession, leading Crabbe to their bosses.

Director Newfield effectively attends to all elements of George Milton's story as well as to the all-important action. Crabbe turns in his usual satisfactory performance, and St. John, in his dual role, provokes sympathy, first, and laughter later. King, Hackett and Hall contribute in good measure. Neufeld produced.

Running time, 58 minutes. "G."* Release date, Feb. 3.

HELEN MCNAMARA

"Marked for Murder"

(PRC)

TEX RITTER and Dave O'Brien, the Texas Rangers, match wits and brawn with Jack Ingram and his band of crooked cohorts in PRC's "Marked for Murder," which follows, with little deviation, the established Western formula, emphasizing action above all else.

Pitting the cattlemen against the sheep ranchers makes it easy for Ingram's crowd to rustle cattle without being suspected, since the ranchers, following several crimes engineered by Ingram, are distrustful of each other. Ritter and O'Brien, with the left-handed assistance of Guy Wilkerson, who provides some welcome comedy relief, uncover the plot. The climax comes in a rip-roaring gun battle at the town jail. The Rangers, of course, are victorious.

Arthur Alexander produced, and Elmer Clifton directed, from his own screenplay. Ritter, O'Brien and Wilkerson turn in performances up to usual standards, adequately supported by Marilyn McConnell, Edward Cassidy, Henry Hall, Charles King and Ingram.

Running time, 56 minutes. "G."* Release date, Feb. 8.

H. M.

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Allport Returns to London for MPPDA

Fayette W. Allport, MPPDA representative in London, has returned to England to resume his old post, it was learned at the weekend. Allport was here for about a year and a half and had planned to return sooner but was delayed by illness.

No definite plans for the return of Harold L. Smith, MPPDA representative in Paris, have been made, it is understood, despite desires of the distributors to send some representation to France to counterbalance the reported efforts there of British interests to secure French theatre holdings.

10 Millions Involved In Bob Hope Pact

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—Bob Hope has been given a new 10-year radio contract by Charles Luckman, president of Pepsodent, at a cost of nearly $10,000,000, which will include everything but radio time. The new pact gives Hope 17 years with the same sponsor. Hope will outline his radio show's future format before company executives and salesmen here this week.

Hope was named 'Champion of Champions' in the MOTION PICTURE DAILY-FAME recent radio poll, and was one of the winners of *Motion Picture Herald's* 'Box Office Champions' for 1944.

Hazen and Wallis to Set Release for Two

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—Releasing and distribution plans on "The Love Letters" and "The Affairs of Susan," the first Hal Wallis productions to be released by Paramount are to be discussed when Joseph H. Hazen, president of Hal Wallis Productions, arrives on the West Coast from New York, probably today.

Hazen expects to remain in California for several weeks and will also participate in the launching of a third film, "Don't Ever Grieve Me."

Lasky To Announce Release On Coast

Jesse L. Lasky and Walter MacEwen will leave for the Coast today or tomorrow after a month in New York during which time they set tentative releasing arrangements for the newly formed Jesse L. Lasky Productions. Lasky said here Friday that details of the arrangements will be announced after he has conferred with his financial interests in California.

The company had announced plans to make at least four pictures, to cost $1,000,000 each, by Jan., 1946.

Schildkraut Reception

Joseph Schildkraut will meet the trade press here this afternoon at a Republic Pictures reception at the Hampshire House.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Jan. 7

RKO RADIO has given new long-term contracts to two studio executives: Sid Rogell will continue to function as executive producer, and will be responsible for from 15 to 20 features on the studio's schedule for the current year. J. J. Nolan will continue in charge of all talent as an executive assistant to Charles W. Koerner.

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Walter Abel and Katherine Alexander will play character leads in Sol Siegel's independent film production of "Kiss and Tell," for Columbia. . . . Kathryn Grayson has been added to the cast of M-G-M's color musical, "Ziegfeld Follies." . . . Billie Burke will have one of the top featured roles opposite Eugene Pallette in Republic's "The Amazing Mr. M," which will have Joseph Schildkraut in the title role.

•

Screen rights to "Black Market Babies," by Virginia Reid, which appeared in the Woman's Home Companion, have been purchased by Monogram producer Lindsley Parsons. . . . Warner producer-director Howard Hawks has purchased "Dark Page," a psychological drama by Sergeant Sammy Fuller. . . . RKO recently purchased two story properties, "Anything Can Happen," Book-of-the-Month Club selection for January, and "Fabulous Alibi," original by Dane Lussier.

Conventions, Trade Shows Out on Feb. 1

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—James F. Byrnes, director of War Mobilization and Reconversion, "requested" at the weekend the cancellation of conventions and trade shows requiring the attendance of more than 50 persons after Feb. 1, unless they are determined to be necessary to the prosecution of the war. It was announced that this action was being taken with the approval of President Roosevelt.

Although the element of strict compulsion appeared to be lacking, the announcement indicated an intention to follow through with measures that would expose uncooperative organizations to public scrutiny.

Claude Ellis Dies

CINCINNATI, Jan. 7.—Claude R. Ellis, 62, outdoor editor of *Billboard*, died here Friday. He was a member of the Showmen's League of America. Surviving are his widow and a brother, Percy, of Long Beach, Cal.

Barnett, 20th Renew

George Barnett, president of Modern Film Corp., has renewed, for one year, a product deal with 20th-Fox to supply films to the theatre circuit controlled by Nyja Bio, at Reykjavik, Iceland.

WANTED
ANIMATION-CAMERAMAN
High Pay—Excellent Opportunity
CINEFFECTS
1600 Broadway New York City
Circle 6-6252

Connors Sets Nationwide 'Dimes' Aides

(*Continued from page* 1)

Warners; C. G. Eastman, Albany; M. A. Brown, Buffalo; C. H. Weaver, Oklahoma City, all Paramount; W. E. Truog, United Artists, Kansas City; William Zoelner, Atlanta; F. J. Downey, Detroit; James Briant, New Orleans; William H. Workman, Minneapolis; Sol Gottlieb, Pittsburgh; J. J. Maloney, Pittsburgh, all M-G-M; Rovy F. Branon, Charlotte; Sol M. Sachs, Dallas; B. Pitkin, New Haven; Charles Boasberg, New York; E. A. Lamb, Seattle, all RKO; R. O. Wilson, Portland, Ore.; B. Rose, San Francisco; Frank Mantzke, Milwaukee, all Universal; Tom Gilliam, Chicago; Clyde Eckhardt, Los Angeles; Leavitte Bugie, Cincinnati; George Landis, Indianapolis; T. W. Young, Memphis; Sam Gross, Philadelphia, all 20th-Fox.

District Chairmen

District chairmen appointed by Connors are: J. B. Underwood, Columbia, Dallas; Henry Herbel, Warners, Los Angeles; A. M. Kane, Paramount, Boston; Jack Goldhar, United Artists, Detroit; Jack Bowen, M-G-M, New York; Sam Shirley, M-G-M, Chicago.

Distributor and exhibitor meetings are being set in all key centers.

Connors has sent a bulletin to all distributor chairmen to start making collections at once in all exchanges.

The New York March of Dimes Committee is planning a demonstration in Times Square to launch its participation. A "polio" display will be erected and a screen will be erected to show the appeal trailer. Ernest Emerling, aided by Harry Mandel, will be in charge, with Edward C. Dowden as special events chairman.

California Seeks New March of Dimes Record

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 7.—Southern California exhibitors, affiliated circuits and independents, through George Bowser, predicted at the weekend that there would be at least 550 pledged theatres for March of Dimes Week, and that total collections would exceed last year's by 25 per cent.

NAB Approves Study Of Radio Regulations

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—J. Harold Ryan, president of the National Association of Broadcasters, expressed at the weekend the organization's approval of the Lea committee's suggestion for a review of the communications act.

Thompson to Produce

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—Walter Thompson, executive assistant to William Goetz for more than a year, has been named associate producer for International Pictures. His first assignment will be "Countess of Monte Cristo," color film to star Sonja Henie.

"Please, Mister, do your best."

Okay! Sweetheart! Here's my Pledge

To NICHOLAS M. SCHENCK, Chairman
1945 MARCH OF DIMES DRIVE
SUITE 124, ASTOR HOTEL, NEW YORK, 19, N. Y.

You may depend on my complete cooperation. At every performance, during week of Jan. 25-31, I promise to show the appeal trailer and make audience collections in my auditorium. Send full details.

(PLEASE PRINT PLAINLY)

Signed .....

..... THEATRE

..... COUNTY

..... CITY-STATE

SEATING CAPACITY .....

1945 MARCH of DIMES

To Resume Thalia Case in Chicago

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—The conspiracy case filed in Federal Court here by Thomas Murray, former operator of the Thalia Theatre, against Balaban and Katz and the major distributors, will be resumed here tomorrow morning after a recess since Friday.

The case opened on Jan. 3 and is expected to last three weeks. So far, the court has heard only opening statements from attorneys representing both sides, and part of the cross examination of the plaintiff, Murray, by Leonard G. Seeley, attorney representing B. and K. Murray claims he was forced out of business due to lack of suitable product, and charges the defendants with conspiracy.

Petitions for Theatre

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE, N. J., Jan. 7.—The local Chamber of Commerce has recommended the building of a new theatre following notification from William C. Hunt, owner of the recently destroyed Grand, that the War Production Board had refused approval of construction of a new house. The chamber declared that residents use extra tires and gasoline to reach out-of-town theatres and that retail business in the country-seat has been injured by lack of a theatre.

Grainger to Open Republic Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

distribution and production plans and policies.

Herbert J. Yates, Sr., chairman of the board, will outline future productions and discuss extended advertising and publicity coverage on forthcoming films. The meeting will also be attended by E. L. Walton, assistant general sales manager; Eastern, Central, and New England district sales managers Maxwell Gillis, Sam Seplowin, and Jack Davis, respectively, heading a group of managers; A. W. Perry, general sales manager of Empire Universal Films, Republic's Canadian distributors; A. J. Laurie, Republic Canadian sales manager; Walter L. Titus, Jr., executive assistant in charge of branch operations, and home office representatives Albert Schiller, Si Borus, E. H. Seifert, Steve Edwards, Charles Reed Jones, E. L. Becker, Evelyn Koleman, Beatrice Ross, James Conniff, and special representatives A. E. Fox and Fred W. Franke.

UA District Heads Meet Here Today

(*Continued from page* 1)

Thompson, Kansas City; Rud Lohrenz, Chicago; W. E. Callaway, Los Angeles; A. J. Jeffrey, Toronto.

Highlights of the meetings will be an over-all discussion of sales policies on new product and plans for national advertising-publicity campaigns.

Among those who will attend are: Gradwell L. Sears, vice-president in charge of distribution; Carl Leserman, sales manager; J. J. Unger, Western division manager; Harry Gold, Eastern division manager; Edward Schnitzer, home office sales executive and Paul Lazarus, Sr., Harry D. Buckley, Charles Steele, Phil Dow and Jack Wrege.

Hicks Returns From First Army Front

George Hicks, Blue Network commentator, has returned from the Western Front and discussed his experiences at a press luncheon at Toots Schor's here Friday. Hicks, whose coverage on D-Day from the Normandy beachhead was voted the best radio news job in the recent MOTION PICTURE DAILY-FAME radio poll, disclosed that he was 10 miles from the spot where the German offensive broke through the American First Army lines on Dec. 17.

Screen 'Caballeros'

Walt Disney's "The Three Caballeros," to be released through RKO, was screened Friday night for 1,300 educators attending the American Museum of Natural History's first Visual Aids Institute for Teachers, here. Also present were Arthur Haywood DeBra, assistant secretary of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America; William Levy of Walt Disney Productions, and Rutgers Neilson, RKO Radio publicity manager.

Short Subject Review

"Brought to Action"

(*WAC-UA-MGM*)

The story of our strategy and action in the great Naval battle of the Philippines, last October, is depicted stirringly in the two-reel film produced by the Office of Strategic Services in cooperation with the United States Navy. Included in the film is authentic Japanese footage, captured from the enemy and released to the public for the first time. Behind the graphic account of our sweeping victory when the Jap was 'brought to action' lies also the sobering story of the price in human life and sacrifice we paid.

While United Artists will distribute in other territories, M-G-M will handle the film for the War Activities Committee in Albany, Des Moines, Memphis, Oklahoma City and Portland, Ore. Running time, 20 mins.

NDGA Meet to Hear Television Leaders

Television industry representatives will speak at the convention of the National Dry Goods Association at the Hotel Pennsylvania here tomorrow at which attendance is expected to reach 2,000.

Leonard F. Cramer, executive vice-president of DuMont; James D. McLean, General Electric; Dan Halpin, RCA, and others will talk at a morning session devoted to television operation and management. A television production panel in the afternoon will hear Samuel H. Cuff, general manager of DuMont's station WABD; Thomas H. Hutchinson, RKO Television; Robert Gibson of General Electric's station WRGB; Bud Gamble, president of Television Producers, and Raymond E. Nelson, vice-president of Charles M. Storm Co. Irwin A. Shane, director of the Television Workshop, organized the television sessions.

MGM Office Heads, Exploiteers Arrive

Three M-G-M office managers and three field exploiters will arrive here today for a week at the home office, visiting department heads and studying operations.

Office managers are: Hazel Anderson, Omaha; Lily Goodin, San Francisco; Eleanore King, Denver. Field exploiteers, first of a group of 34 to come here, are: J. E. Watson, Cincinnati; Charles Deardourff, Cleveland; Norman Linz, Indianapolis.

Monogram Reports $33,159 Profit

Monogram Pictures reports a net profit of $33,159, equal to seven cents on each 458,659 shares, for the quarter ended Sept. 30. The net last year was $30,422.

The report indicated that gross film rentals had increased 42 per cent from domestic sales and 84 per cent from foreign.

Robards Press Chief

Sidney M. Robards, who has been on the staff of the department of information of RCA for the past seven years, was appointed manager of the department at the weekend.

OUR ENTHUSIASM FOR "CAN'T HELP SINGING" IS WELL FOUNDED!

We felt that "Can't Help Singing" would be the biggest picture Universal has ever had. We also felt it would prove to be the most entertaining and the most satisfying to exhibitors and customers. All business returns prove this to be correct. "Can't Help Singing" has broken every record of every Universal picture in the engagements it has played so far.

It has also received fine critical acclaim, and we are very happy about the fact that many critics refer to it as the best Deanna Durbin picture ever made.

In the New York Daily Mirror, Frank Quinn referred to "Can't Help Singing" as "Filmdom's 'Oklahoma'."

No wonder we "Can't Help Singing" the praises of "Can't Help Singing."

Screen Play by LEWIS R. FOSTER and FRANK RYAN • Story by John Klorer, Leo Townsend • Based on "Girl of the Overland Trail" by Samuel J. and Curtis B. Warshawsky

UNIVERSAL PICTURES

SIGN UP NOW! A GREATER DRIVE IN '45!
MARCH OF DIMES (Jan. 25-31)

DEANNA DURBIN'S FIRST
IS UNIVERSAL'S BIGG

CAN'T HELP HOLDING OVER

"CAN'T HELP SINGING"

Deanna DURBIN *in* CAN'T HELP SINGING

IN TECHNICOLOR

TECHNICOLOR PICTURE
EST BOXOFFICE HIT!

Extended playing time in all first engagements

CHICAGO, ILL.

BUFFALO, N. Y.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

LOUISVILLE, KY.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

MIAMI, FLA.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.

CRITERION, N. Y.

BALTIMORE, MD.

ALLENTOWN, PA.

READING, PA.

HARRISBURG, PA.

TOLEDO, OHIO

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

ASBURY PARK, N. J.

with ROBERT PAIGE
AKIM TAMIROFF

DAVID BRUCE LEONID KINSKEY RAY COLLINS JUNE VINCENT ANDREW TOMBES THOMAS GOMEZ

Directed by FRANK RYAN Produced by FELIX JACKSON Assoc Producer FRANK SHAW Music by JEROME KERN Lyrics by E. Y. HARBURG

Screen Play by LEWIS R. FOSTER and FRANK RYAN • Story by John Klorer and Leo Townsend
Based on "Girl of the Overland Trail" by Samuel J. and Curtis B. Warshawsky • A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

Production on The Rise, with Eight Started

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 7.—Production has taken an upward turn, with work started on eight new features; four others went to the cutting rooms. The shooting index has risen to 38, compared with 34 a week ago.

The production scene follows:

Columbia

Shooting: "The Fighting Guardsman," "A Thousand and One Nights."

M-G-M

Shooting: "Her Highness and the Bellboy," "The Hidden Eye," "Weekend at the Waldorf," "Hold High the Torch."

Monogram

Started: "Docks of New York," with the East Side Kids.

Paramount

Finished: "The Love Letters," "Duffy's Tavern."

Shooting: "Good Intentions," "The Virginian," "The Lost Weekend," "The Affairs of Susan," "Masquerade in Mexico," "Too Good to Be True."

PRC

Started: "Phantom of 42nd Street," with Kay Aldridge, Dave O'Brien, Frank Jenks.

RKO Radio

Finished: "Sing Your Way Home" (formerly "Follow Your Heart").

Started: "Those Endearing Young Charms," with Robert Young, Laraine Day, Bill Williams.

Shooting: "Johnny Angel," "The Spanish Main," "Invisible Army," "Along Came Jones" (International).

Republic

Started: "New Faces of 1945," with Kaye Dowd, Robert Duke, David Street, Charles Kemper; "The Fatal Witness," with Evelyn Ankers, Richard Fraser, George Leigh, Barbara Everest.

Shooting: "Road to Alcatraz," "Return at Dawn."

20th Century-Fox

Started: "State Fair," with Dana Andrews, Jeanne Crain, Charles Winninger.

Shooting: "Colonel Effingham's Raid," "A Bell for Adano," "Captain Eddie."

United Artists

Finished: "Blood on the Sun" (Cagney).

Started: "Paris - Underground" (Constance Bennett), with Constance Bennett, Gracie Fields.

Shooting: "A Walk in the Sun" (Bronston); "Story of G. I. Joe" (Cowan); "Guest Wife" (Skirball-Manning).

Universal

Started: "Senorita from the West," with Allan Jones, Bonita Granville, Jess Barker, Rene McEvoy.

Shooting: "A Night in Paradise," "That's the Spirit."

Warners

Shooting: "Mildred Pierce," "This Love of Ours," "Hotel Berlin," "The Big Sleep."

RMA Has 227 Members

Radio Manufacturers Association now has 227 member companies.

Crescent Asks Rehearing Of Supreme Court Case

(*Continued from page* 1)

defendants had theatres did so through the normal processes of competition.

The contention that the Government had failed to prove its case, ruled out by the high court as not being an assignment of error, was not predicated upon lack of evidence to support the findings of fact, as the court assumed, it was explained, "but rather on the theory that, assuming the findings of fact to be unimpeachable, a decree predicated on these findings was nevertheless outside the scope of the complaint as amplified by the bill of particulars."

"We think the defendants are entitled to a consideration by the court of this important and material issue which was discussed in detail in the briefs," it was added.

With respect to the use of buying power, the defendants objected to the example given in the court's opinion, that the defendants insisted that a distributor give them monopoly rights in towns in which defendants had competition before distributors' pictures would be shown in closed towns. Crescent contends the high court's inference that discrimination was induced for the purpose of restraining competition, was unwarranted.

"The so-called discriminations by distributors were induced by business reasons and the inference relied upon by the Government is not valid," Crescent contends.

On the final point the defendants charge that the high court failed to deal in its opinion with defendants' contention that only the normal processes of competition eliminated independent theatres.

"There was absolutely no evidence," the Crescent petition states, "that defendants ever obtained, or attempted to obtain, from any distributor any agreement, express or implied, that it should not furnish pictures to a competing exhibitor, or should impose restrictions on any other exhibitor."

'Pirate', 'Vanities' Smash at $43,000

CLEVELAND, Jan. 7.—Undaunted by the heaviest local snowstorm on record, Cleveland turned out en masse to attend theatres. Box office queues were the order of the day for "Princess and the Pirate," at the RKO Palace, which rang up a tremendous $43,000; for "30 Seconds Over Tokyo," at Loew's State, for a big $27,000; for "Hollywood Canteen," at Warners' Hippodrome, with a $27,000 take, and for all of the holdovers.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 3:

"The Very Thought of You" (WB)
ALLEN—(3,000) (45c-55c-65c. Special midnight show, 75c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $8,500).

"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
WARNERS' HIPPODROME—(3,500) (45c-55c-65c. Special midnight show, 75c) 7 days. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $22,100).

"Laura" (20th-Fox) 6 days

"Hollywood Canteen" (WB) 1 day
WARNERS' LAKE—(714) (45c-55c-65c) Gross: $4,500. (Average: $3,200).

"Lost in a Harem" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (45c-65c) 7 days, including special midnight show. 3rd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $5,000).

"The Princess and the Pirate" (RKO)
RKO PALACE—(3,300) (50c-60c-85c-95c. Special reserved seat show at $2.40 to $1.80) 7 days. Stage: Earl Carroll's Vanities. Gross: $43,000. (Average: $25,400)

"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,300) (45c-65c). Extra midnight show. 7 days. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $19,000).

"Kismet" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STILLMAN—(1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days, including special midnight show. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $10,000).

Selznick Wins Award

The New York Federation of Women's Clubs, with an affiliated membership of 300,000, announced at the weekend that a special award has been made to David O. Selznick for "Since You Went Away," as 'the best picture of the year for home front morale.'

RCA Gets Generators

Distribution of 'Actodector,' theatre-type motor generator sets, produced by Century Electric Co., St. Louis, has been taken over by the theatre equipment section of RCA Victor.

'Tokyo' Lifts Slump With $29,000 Gross

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 7.—"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" ended a three-week slump in Pittsburgh receipts with an estimated gross of $29,000 this week at the Penn. Next to the top is "Hollywood Canteen," which is expected to bring $25,000 to the Stanley.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 2-5:

"Lake Placid Serenade" (Rep.)
FULTON—(1,700) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $6,500. (Average: $8,500).

"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
J. P. HARRIS—(2,200) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days. 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $10,000).

"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
PENN—(3,400) (40c-55c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $29,000. (Average: $21,700).

"And Now Tomorrow" (Para.)
RITZ—(1,100) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, on a moveover from the Stanley. Gross: $3,880. (Average: $3,000).

"Carolina Blues" (Col.)
SENATOR—(1,750) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $3,000).

"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
STANLEY—(3,800) (40c-55c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $22,000).

"Kismet" (M-G-M)
WARNER—(2,000) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, on a moveover from the Penn. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $9,450).

Morrell Heads Managers

TORONTO, Jan. 7.—George Morrell, manager of Famous Players' St. Clair Theatre, was elected president of the Toronto Suburban Managers Association, succeeding Charles L. Querrie of the Palace Theatre, who had held the office two years. Other officers elected include M. J. Doyle, vice-president; Allan Nasson, treasurer; Jay Smith, secretary, and Querrie, honorary president.

Settle Grafton Suit

Suit by Grafton Films, Ltd., against Loew's, Inc., for $500,000 damages for alleged improper distribution of "The Stars Looked Down," has been settled out of the New York Federal Court. Among charges were failure to release the film on time, and acceptance of alleged wrongful cancellations.

Enough Freon Will Be Made Available

(*Continued from page* 1)

into their own cooling systems or containers, but acquisition of freon will be made contingent upon the immediate return of the empty flasks.

On the whole, the motion picture industry is the largest civilian consumer of freon, but it is roughly estimated that probably not much more than 250,000 pounds will be required to fill all theatre cooling plants to capacity. That only this moderate volume of refrigerant will be needed, it was said, is due to the fact that no theatre has been permitted to close for lack of freon, although at no time in the past has it been possible to provide enough gas to replace less serious losses.

50 Hardship Cases

During the past Fall, the WPB freon section took care of about 50 theatres which were in dire need of freon, operating on a geographical basis which took care first of those in the Southern states. At that time, reports were secured from nearly every theatre in the country, and not one exhibitor claimed he had been forced to close because of lack of the refrigerant.

The current program of permitting consumers to secure gas now is designed to move into trade channels freon which cannot be stored in present capacity, permitting the manufacturers to continue production at a high rate.

By next summer, it was said, every exhibitor in the country will be able to get all the freon he needs without formality, provided, of course, that military demands for the gas or its basic constituents do not suddenly increase.

Ten from Small to Cost $10,000,000

(*Continued from page* 1)

Sanders and adapted by Curt Siodmak, followed by "Bella Donna," from the Robert Hichens novel, with Louis Hayward starred and Douglas Sirk directing. Robert Smith is now at work on a screenplay from Dawn Powell's "A Time to Be Born," for which Rosalind Russell is being sought. "Valentino" will be produced for 1946-47. Also listed for early production is Booth Tarkington's "Kate Fennigate," adapted by Michael Kanin.

Small is prepared to spend more than $1,500,000 on "The Ghost of Monte Cristo," is was said. Additional story properties include "Lucrezia Borgia," "D'Artagnan" and "Notorious Nancy Grey," the latter by Howard Emmit Rogers and James Edward Grant.

Artkino Has 'Skies'

"Moscow Skies," produced at the Mosfilm Studio in Russia, will be released in the U. S. through Artkino and is now being readied for early distribution.

Pekor in New CBS Post

Charles F. Pekor, Jr. has been named assistant to the director of the CBS press department, according to an announcement by George Crandall, director.

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 6 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1945 TEN CENTS

RAW STOCK CUT TO HIT FILM OUTPUT

Reduction at Rate of 44 Films Yearly Seen; Newsreel Cut Is Severe

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

The 11 national distributors will be forced to curtail production and distribution of the equivalent of 44 top films this year, should the raw stock cut levied against the industry by the War Production Board for the first quarter of 1945 be continued throughout the year, company executives reported yesterday.

The present WPB curtailment of 27,000,000 feet in the industry's allotment for the first quarter of 1945 will begin to be felt in March and will become increasingly serious thereafter, it was stated. The industry has been told the outlook for the second 1945 quarter is for a continuation of the cut unless large quantities of raw

(*Continued on page 3*)

No Separate Decree Peace Seen by U. S.

Report No Overtures Made Yet by Warners

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8. — Having heard unofficial and unconfirmed reports that Warner Bros., which recently sent a notice of resignation to the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, might seek to negotiate a separate peace with the Department of Justice, severing the company from other distributor defendants in the consent decree case, the Department has indicated here that it would accept no compromise that would include retention of distributor-owned theatres.

(In New York recently, Joseph M. Proskauer, decree counsel for Warners, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY no effort is being made to conduct separate negotiations, and Assistant U. S. Attorney General Robert L.

(*Continued on page 6*)

Decorators Delay Studio Walkout

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 8.—Although voting, last Saturday night, to authorize the calling of a strike of the Screen Set Decorators, potentially tying up all studios, Herbert Sorrell, the union's president, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that there would be no walkout, yet Sorrell disclosed that he had received a telephone call from William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, saying that War Labor Board chairman

(*Continued on page 6*)

Outstanding Service Award Given Blank

DES MOINES, Jan. 8.—A. H. Blank yesterday was named winner of the *Des Moines Tribune's* "Community Award" for outstanding service to this city during 1944. Blank, 64, and a theatre operator for 33 years, is president of Tri-States Theatre Corp. and Central States Theatre Corp. He was in Florida when the award was announced, and will receive a silver loving cup, symbol of the award, when he returns.

The selection, made by a jury of

(*Continued on page 6*)

Republic Has 32% Increase

Republic registered a booking increase of 32½ per cent in 1944 over the previous year, an all-time high for the company, James R. Grainger, president and general sales manager, announced at yesterday's opening session of the regional sales meeting which will continue today and tomorrow at the New York Athletic Club.

James R. Grainger

Herbert J. Yates, Sr., chairman of the board, reported that Republic will release one production costing up-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Code for Existing Theatres Due Next

Consideration of proposed provisions of the new building code for New York State, to apply to new structures, including theatres, is nearly completed and the advisory committee to Edward Corsi, State Industrial Commissioner, will shortly turn to the promulgation of rules affecting existing structures, a spokesman for the committee said here yesterday.

The advisory committee, which includes representatives from the film

(*Continued on page 7*)

Grosses Hold Up at N.Y. First-Runs in Post-Holiday Week

Grosses at New York first-run theatres are holding up this week despite a Sunday snowstorm which cut into grosses of some houses as much as 20 per cent for the day.

"Mr. Emmanuel," only new arrival, which opened at the Gotham last Saturday, brought a good $6,500 in the first two days and a big $17,000 is expected for the first week. "National Velvet" continues to do good business at Radio City Music Hall, with $69,000 recorded for the first four days of its fourth week and $110,000 is expected. The third week's gross of $140,500 was an all-time high for the Hall. A big $83,000 is expected for the second week of "Here Come the Waves" and a stage show featuring Woody Herman and band at the Paramount; the first week brought a terrific $122,000.

Roxy, Strand and Capitol were among those hit. "Winged Victory" and a stage show featuring the Nicholas Brothers and Jack Durant are expected to bring the Roxy close to $79,000 for a third week on the basis of $59,700 recorded for the first five days. "Hollywood Canteen" and a Lionel Hampton stage presentation is expected to register $45,000 for a

(*Continued on page 6*)

WPB Hopes for Less Industry Stock Cut

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—War Production Board officials today were still hopeful of keeping the first-quarter raw stock cut at 20,000,000 feet, despite an official announcement Saturday that a curtailment of "possibly" 27,000,000 feet would be required.

They explained that while the higher figure is indicated by the statistics now in, there are still some "loose ends" which may raise the total quota for the industry from the

(*Continued on page 3*)

Expect U. S. Restrictions On Labor in Theatres

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Government imposition of some restrictions on theatre labor was seen as a possibility of the near future in official circles here today. Also, traveling shows may join racing as an activity suspended for the duration of the war, it was said.

The Administration's continued pressure for strict labor controls, designed to put as many men as possible into war or essential industry or the Army, is expected, however, with regard to this industry, to be aimed at the replacement only of men who do not fill jobs vital to theatre operation.

(*Continued on page 7*)

High Court Denies Crescent Rehearing

Washington, Jan. 8.—The U. S. Supreme Court today closed finally the books in the Crescent Amusement Co. anti-trust case, denying a petition of the company for a rehearing of the suit.

The Supreme Court's refusal to consider the case further was embodied in the day's orders, without explanation.

Rogers to Make 4 At $5,250,000

Charles R. Rogers will expand his production from one film yearly to four, he revealed in an interview here yesterday, with a minimum production budget estimated at $5,250,000 for the four. He will continue to release through United Artists.

"My Wild Irish Rose," in color, based on the life of Chauncey Olcott, will start shooting in March and will cost $1,500,000, to be followed in June by "Angel on My Shoulder," a fantasy by Harry Segall, starring Brian

(*Continued on page 6*)

Industry Meetings Unaffected by Ban

The "request" of James F. Byrnes, director of War Mobilization and Reconversion, that conventions and trade showings requiring the attendance of more than 50 persons be cancelled after Feb. 1, unless they are determined to be necessary to the prosecution of the war, appears unlikely to affect many meetings of the motion picture industry.

Earlier transportation retrenchments have for some time confined sales meetings to compact regional groups of less than 50, with a handful of top sales executives doing the traveling. Exhibitor meetings have likewise been streamlined; Byrnes' "request" apparently would not apply to exhibitor organizations or board or executive committee meetings.

Byrnes has appointed a committee, headed by Col. J. Monroe Johnson, director of the Office of Defense Transportation, to pass upon applications of meetings of more than 50 persons, determining whether they are sufficiently in the war interest. Conditions are so bad now that persons traveling on "important war assignments and our service men find it difficult and sometimes impossible to obtain hotel accommodations," Byrnes declared.

Loop Houses Will Feel Convention Trade Loss

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—The order of James F. Byrnes, War Mobilization Director, to ban all national conventions for the rest of 1945 will mean the cancellation of 300 scheduled meetings here, which were expected to draw over 200,000 persons. The ban is a blow to Loop houses which have always enjoyed good convention trade. In normal times, an average of 800 national conventions are held in Chicago annually, attracting 1,000,000 persons.

ITOA Now Attacks Simultaneous Runs

A resolution condemning the practice of distributors in playing the same picture simultaneously in two local theatres as first runs was passed yesterday at a meeting, here, of the film committee of Harry Brandt's Independent Theatre Owners Association. Reason given was "fears that this may create a larger backlog of product than exists today." The committee declared it is "fully aware this practice obviously removes one house that could play another picture and that it sets back releases.

"Independents who make several changes a week find themselves in a position where they cannot obtain enough releases to carry proper bookings," the committee stated. "They find they cannot extend runs in subsequent run houses because present grosses do not justify this. It is their opinion that there are no indications of any appreciable increase in grosses and, as a matter of fact, grosses in many subsequent run theatres are less than in previous years," said the ITOA statement.

Personal Mention

ADOLPH ZUKOR and MRS. ZUKOR will observe their 48th wedding anniversary tomorrow. They were married in Chicago on Jan. 10, 1897.

•

CAPTAIN WALTER LLOYD, Army dischargee, has resumed his post as manager of the M and P Allyn Theatre in Hartford after 30 months' service. STANLEY REDMOND, acting manager, will remain as assistant.

•

GUS KING and OSCAR HOWELL, president and vice-president, respectively, of Capital Supply Co., Atlanta, have returned there from New Orleans.

•

I. COVAL, former Warner branch manager in Montreal, arrived in New York yesterday prior to being assigned to a South American post.

•

HERMAN GOLDBERG, Warner distribution department traveling representative, is en route to Seattle and Butte from New York.

•

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M vice-president and general sales manager, will leave here Friday for a two-week vacation in Miami.

•

CHARLES MIDELBURG, operator of the Capitol, Charleston, West Virginia, arrived in New York yesterday.

•

ARTHUR C. BROMBERG, president of Monogram's Southern exchanges, Atlanta, is in Charlotte.

•

HENRY HELLRIEGEL, Cleveland theatre contractor, was inducted into the Army Saturday.

R. B. WILBY of the Wilby-Kincey circuit, and MRS. WILBY, have returned to Atlanta from Miami.

•

JAMES J. DONOHUE, Paramount Central division manager, left Memphis yesterday for visits in Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland.

•

HOWARD DIETZ, M-G-M vice-president in charge of advertising, publicity and exploitation, will leave New York for the Coast today.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Universal Southern district manager, left New York last night for Oklahoma City and Dallas.

•

OSCAR A. DOOB, Loew's Theatres advertising-publicity director, will leave today for a studio visit in California.

•

EDWIN DOWDEN has returned to his desk at Loew's here after being confined for several days with a severe cold.

•

LEOPOLD FRIEDMAN, Loew's attorney and secretary, will return from a two-week Florida vacation on Jan. 15.

•

EDWIN SILVERMAN of the Essaness Circuit, Chicago, is in Hollywood on a combination vacation-business trip.

•

HENRY BLANKE, Warner producer, will arrive in New York from the Coast early next week.

•

FRED JACK, Southern division manager of United Artists, Atlanta, is in New York.

SOPEG Will Merge With UOPWA Local

Members of the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local 109, CIO, representing 'white collar' workers in the home offices of 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, Loew's, RKO Radio, Columbia, United Artists and other industry groups in New York, have voted in favor of an amalgamation with United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO, Local No. 1.

Local 109's executive board reported here last night that 97 per cent of the ballots cast were in favor of the amalgamation. The report was accepted by the Guild's merger committee. Arrangements will be made within the next few weeks for Local 109 to occupy joint headquarters with Local 1, here, but Local 109 will also continue to maintain present quarters.

Meanwhile, the resumption of hearings between SOPEG and representatives of 20th Century-Fox, Loew's, Paramount, RKO Radio and Columbia before U. S. Commissioner James W. Fitzpatrick of the U. S. Conciliation Service in a contract and wage dispute involving 2,000 office workers of those companies, scheduled for today, has again been postponed.

Funeral Services for A. J. Law Tomorrow

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 8.—Funeral services for Albert J. Law, 40, formerly executive secretary and general counsel of the Southern California Theatre Owners Association, will take place at the Wee Kirk O'Heather on Wednesday. Interment will be at Forest Lawn.

The attorney was stricken with a heart attack New Year's Day while visiting in New York, and died there the following day. He had been conferring with New York distribution executives on a plan for conciliating trade practice complaints prior to their submission to arbitration. Prior to going to New York, he had been in Washington, where his plan was reported under consideration by the Department of Justice. He had hoped to make the plan national, rather than local through the SCOTA.

Pettijohn Child Dies

Funeral services for Charles C. Pettijohn, III, three and one-half-year old grandson of C. C. Pettijohn, former MPPDA executive, will be held on Thursday at the latter's home in Rye, N. Y. The child died on Saturday at Miami Beach, Fla., where his father, Ensign C. C. Pettijohn, is stationed. The latter was with the Production Code Administration in Hollywood before entering service.

Klein to Filmack as Promotion Manager

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—Bernard Klein, former sales manager for Screen Advertising Service Co. here, has been appointed sales promotion manager for Filmack Laboratories, a division of Filmack Trailer Co.

Also named to the Filmack staff recently were Seymour Kain, director of advertising, and Patricia Dollahan, his assistant, formerly with Foote, Cone and Belding on the West Coast.

NEW YORK THEATRES

THIRD GAY WEEK!
VERA HRUBA RALSTON
Lake Placid Serenade
featuring
Eugene Palette
Robert Livingston
RAY NOBLE and his Orchestra
Vera Vague
Stephanie Bachelor
HARRY OWENS and his Royal Hawaiians
and
ROY ROGERS
(as Guest Star)
A Republic Picture
REPUBLIC THEATRE
B'way, Bet. 51st & 52nd Sts.

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50TH STREET & 6TH AVENUE
M-G-M's
"NATIONAL VELVET"
MICKEY ROONEY
DONALD CRISP - ELIZABETH TAYLOR
JACKIE JENKINS - REGINALD OWEN
and THE MUSIC HALL'S
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
'TOGETHER AGAIN'
IRENE DUNNE
CHAS. BOYER
CHAS. COBURN
IN PERSON
ROSARIO & ANTONIO
Extra!
SALICI PUPPETS

BING CROSBY
BETTY HUTTON
SONNY TUFTS
In Person
Woody HERMAN and His Orchestra
ALL-STAR REVUE
"Here Come the Waves"
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
HEDY LAMARR
GEORGE BRENT - PAUL LUKAS
"Experiment Perilous"
An RKO Picture

20TH CENTURY-FOX PRESENTS
A. J. Cronin's
"THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM"
Continuous Performances
RIVOLI
B'way & 49th St.

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Deny Capone Gang Appeal from Jail

The Circuit Court of Appeals in New York yesterday denied a petition for a rehearing by six convicted members of the Capone gang in Chicago, who were found guilty of extorting more than $1,000,000 from the film industry. Found guilty and sentenced in Dec., 1943, to a fine of $10,000 each and seven years in prison, they had appealed to the court from the Federal court's ruling, but the Circuit Court of Appeals has unanimously affirmed the conviction. The six must serve their sentences, a year of which already has passed, since bail was denied to all but one.

Louis J. Kaufman, business agent of the IATSE in Newark, is the one man still out on bail. He appealed yesterday to the court to stay its mandate, so that he can remain free on $25,000 bail pending his appeal for a review of his conviction to the Supreme Court. Conviction of all was an outgrowth of the Bioff-Browne trial, in which the latter aided the Department of Justice in obtaining convictions of the others.

Soundmen Demand a Browne-Bioff Probe

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 8.—A demand that the Senate Judiciary committee "investigate the recent action of Judge John C. Knox in permitting George Browne and Willie Bioff to walk the streets at liberty" was made by Sound Technicians Local 695, IATSE in a resolution adopted here yesterday.

The resolution asks the committee to determine whether Judge Knox required Browne and Bioff to refrain from activities affecting the IATSE; whether precautions were taken to prevent such activity, and whether he "required as a condition of their freedom that they reveal what they did with millions of dollars collected by way of a two per cent tax assessed against earnings of members" while Browne and Bioff were in power in the International and for which, it was charged, there has never been an accounting.

Romulo in Film Report

General Carlos P. Romulo, resident Philippine Islands commissioner to the United States, recently returned here from Leyte, will meet the press at noon today and give a preview of a film report from the Islands, featuring the General and produced by Newsreel Distributors, Inc.; it will be released to the public through Embassy Newsreel Theatres, on Jan. 12.

Mono. to Show 'Faith'

Monogram will hold a special screening of "They Shall Have Faith" tomorrow morning at the Normandie Theatre here. Following the showing a buffet luncheon will be served at the Warwick Hotel.

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Raw Stock Cut May Mean 44 Fewer Films in '45

(*Continued from page* 1)

stock can be saved from use by the Armed Services and the Office of War Information. Should the raw stock consumed by these groups be less than presently indicated, or should raw stock production increase, there may be a raw stock bonus for the industry, but the WPB did not offer the industry's advisory committee too much hope at the meeting in Washington last week.

The present cut in industry allocations, which is final to all ostensible purposes except that the WPB is to notify the companies as to the manner in which the 27,000,000-feet cut is to be apportioned among the companies, means the elimination of the production and distribution of one A picture by each of the 11 national distributors during the first quarter, indicating a cut of 44 Class A pictures by the 11 companies in 1945 if the cut continues at the present rate, it is said. The curtailment of more than 44 films is in prospect if the raw stock cut is increased in subsequent 1945 quarters.

No Backlog Prints

Although many of the companies have a sizeable number of pictures in backlogs, none have release prints of these films on hand now. In many cases, it is learned, the companies have been able to print only the necessary prints to maintain current selling and releasing commitments. A minimum of 300 prints on A pictures are required by most companies and some require as many as 400 prints of A films.

The WPB told the industry's advisory committee last Thursday that it proposes to cut allotments to the 11 companies by 18,000,000 feet during the current quarter with the other 9,000,000 feet being taken from newsreel companies. Stanley Adams, head of the WPB consumers durable goods division, who met with the industry committee, is understood to have been told that the newsreels would have to suspend if the cut were levied against them.

Considerable opposition is understood to have developed to the WPB's proposed method of levying the cut of 27,000,000 feet against the companies on a straight percentage basis instead of on a percentage basis such as has prevailed for the larger companies heretofore; some of which were cut as much as 33⅓ per cent, while smaller companies were cut as little as 12 per cent to make up an overall 25 per cent cut. Under the new WPB proposals all large companies would receive the same cut of about 2,500,000 feet, while the cut for smaller companies would be over 1,000,000 feet, the equivalent in both cases of the amount of footage required for the production and distribution of at least one A picture.

The industry's raw stock allotment for the last quarter of 1944 was 269,000,000 feet for production and distribution of feature releases and 51,000,000 feet for newsreels. The 27,000,000 feet cut during the first quarter will leave 251,000,000 feet for features with the allotment to newsreels being dropped to 42,000,000 feet which, it is claimed, will make it impossible for them to operate. Curtailments in raw stock use for War Activities Committee releases are being studied by the WAC distributors' division now headed by Gradwell L. Sears, United Artists vice-president and distribution head.

Reduce Running Time

Companies are understood to have taken the position that they cannot save any appreciable amount of raw stock on the production end by curtailing retakes and other production usages. Some of the companies are understood to have pointed out that they are now making every effort to reduce the running time of their films to save raw stock.

Indications are that some consideration might be given to the plight of United Artists which requires almost 10,000,000 feet of raw stock for production purposes alone during the first quarter of 1945, while facing a curtailment of over 1,000,000 feet from its allotment of 15,000,000 feet during the last quarter of 1944. The company wants to use additional footage this quarter and make it up in subsequent quarters.

Most of the companies printed their current releases during December, using allocations from the last quarter of 1944, but they will begin to feel the pinch to a much greater extent than hertofore if they cannot begin printing releases for the April to June quarter during the final month of this quarter, it was said.

Murray Examined as His Suit Resumes

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—The Thomas Murray $1,000,000 damage suit in Federal Court here resumed today with the cross-examination of the plaintiff, Murray, former operator of the Thalia Theatre, by Paramount and Balaban and Katz attorneys. Murray claims he was forced to sell the house in 1941 due to a lack of product, because the producer-distributors and Balaban and Katz, among other circuits, allegedly conspired to hold back choice pictures.

During most of the day, defendants' counsel produced old contracts to show that Murray had played top product between 1931, following the dissolution of his two-year partnership with the neighboring Milo Theatre, and 1938.

WPB Hopes for Less Industry Stock Cut

(*Continued from page* 1)

296,000,000 linear feet seen Saturday as definitely assured to something slightly over 300,000,000 feet.

In its weekend announcement, the Board said the cut, if continued through the year, would necessitate the elimination of 30 feature length pictures, but it was admitted that this was merely a guess designed to translate the footage of the cut into actual pictures as more understandable to the general public.

At the same time, it said that conditions may materially improve in subsequent quarters, although no accurate forecast is possible now, and if a downward revision of military requirements does occur, additional film will be available for the industry.

Fight Against Tax Legislation Urged At Tri-State Meet

MEMPHIS, Jan. 8.—Arkansas, Tennessee and Missisippi members of the MPTOA today were urged by nearly all speakers to be on the alert to circumvent any discriminatory tax legislation which might be imposed upon the industry. This thought was expressed by Dave Palfreyman of the MPPDA; Claude Lee, Paramount public relations director, and Claude Mundo, president of the Arkansas division of MPTOA, Palfreyman pointing out particularly that through organization things could be accomplished that could not be done singly.

Ed Kuykendall, national president, was unable to attend because of illness.

Clayton Tunstill, field director of Malco Theatres, discussed better theater operation and M. A. Lightman, president of the Malco circuit, discussed the great war effort by theatres and urged more support.

Louis Haven, Jr., of Forrest City, retiring president, presided at the meetings.

New officers elected by the tri-state group were: J. Allen West, Memphis, president; W. E. Malin, Augusta, vice-president for Arkansas; W. F. Ruffin, Covington, vice-president for Tennessee; Sank Taylor, Laurel, vice-president for Misssissippi; B. V. McDouglas, Monticello, Ark., chairman of the board; E. R. Gillette, Memphis, secretary-treasurer; W. L. Landers, Battesville; Claude Mundo, Little Rock; L. F. Haven, Sr., Forrest City, Jack Rhodes, West Memphis, Sidney Wharton, Warren, and Emma Cox, Osceola, directors for Arkansas; R. X. Williams, Oxford, W. A. Rush, Houston, and Raymond Goodman, Starkville, directors for Mississippi; M. A. Lightman, Memphis; Mrs. Dave Flexer, Memphis; Louise Mask, Bolivar, and W. F. Ruffin, Covington, directors for Tennessee.

Schwartz, Rinzler Talk 'Dimes' Drive

Over 250 bookers, salesmen and executives of film exchanges in New York, met here yesterday to discuss the March of Dimes drive. Fred Schwartz, co-chairman with Samuel Rinzler for New York, outlined the procedure in contacting exhibitors.

Charles Boasberg, New York distributor chairman, urged exchange members to help exhibitors in every possible way and asked for the enlisting of services of secretaries and others in sales organizations to help those theatre managers short of assistants in making collections. Also among those present were: Oscar A. Doob, national director; Harry Mandel, New York publicity director; John Cassidy, publicity coordinator; Ernest Emerling, publicity chairman, and Edward C. Dowden, special events chairman.

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SOUND STUDIOS, INC.
1600 BROADWAY, N. Y. 19 Circle 6-6686
Complete Film and Disc Recording Facilities

AN UNUSUAL WELCOME

(These theatres have dates with a beautiful picture)

ATLANTA—*Rialto* . . . Feb. 8

BIRMINGHAM—*Empire* . . . Feb. 8

MIAMI—*Lincoln, Miami, Capitol* . . . Feb. 1

CHARLOTTE—*Carolina* . . . Feb. 25

CHARLESTON, S. C.—*Gloria* . . . Feb. 4

NEWARK, O.—*New Arcade* . . . Feb. 4

SPRINGFIELD, O.—*Regent* . . . Feb. 8

HUNTINGTON—*Palace* . . . Feb. 2

CHARLESTON, W. VA.—*Virginia* . . . Feb. 2

PARKERSBURG—*Hiehle* . . . Feb. 4

PORTSMOUTH—*LeRoy* . . . Feb. 16

CHILLICOTHE—*Sherman* . . . Feb. 16

CLEVELAND—*Hippodrome* . . . Feb. 8

YOUNGSTOWN—*Palace* . . . Feb. 6

CANTON—*Palace* . . . Feb. 1

MARION—*Palace* . . . Feb. 18

E. LIVERPOOL—*State* . . . Feb. 15

TOLEDO—*Rivoli* . . . Feb. 8

SANDUSKY—*State* . . . Feb. 21

LIMA—*Quilna* . . . Feb. 9

DALLAS—*Palace* . . . Feb. 1

HOUSTON—*Metropolitan* . . . Feb. 1

GALVESTON—*Martini* . . . Feb. 1

WICHITA FALLS—*Majestic* . . . Feb. 2

AUSTIN—*Paramount* . . . Feb. 9

AMARILLO—*Paramount* . . . Feb. 11

EL PASO—*Ellanay* . . . Feb. 16

SAN ANTONIO—*Aztec* . . . Mar. 8

DENVER—*Denver & Esquire* . . . Feb. 6

DES MOINES—*Orpheum* . . . Feb. 1

DAVENPORT—*Orpheum* . . . Feb. 2

CEDAR RAPIDS—*Iowa* . . . Feb. 1

WATERLOO—*Orpheum* . . . Feb. 8

DETROIT—*Fox* . . . Feb. 2

SAGINAW—*Temple* . . . Feb. 11

JACKSON—*Michigan* . . . Feb. 11

KALAMAZOO—*State* . . . Feb. 11

FLINT—*Capitol* . . . Feb. 11

LANSING—*Michigan* . . . Feb. 11

GRAND RAPIDS—*Regent* . . . Feb. 11

MUSKEGON—*Michigan* . . . Feb. 11

BATTLE CREEK—*Regent* . . . Feb. 11

TOPEKA—*Grand* . . . Feb. 2

JOPLIN—*Paramount* . . . Feb. 2

SPRINGFIELD, MO.—*Gillioz* . . . Feb. 2

ST. JOSEPH—*Missouri* . . . Feb. 4

LEAVENWORTH—*Hollywood* . . . Feb. 4

JEFFERSON CITY—*Capitol* . . . Feb. 4

SALINA—*Watson* . . . Feb. 4

HUTCHINSON—*Fox* . . . Feb. 4

WICHITA—*Miller* . . . Feb. 1

MEMPHIS—*Malco* . . . Feb. 1

TO A NEW RELEASE!

MILWAUKEE—*Palace* . . . Feb. 1

MINNEAPOLIS—*Radio City* . . . Feb. 2

HARTFORD—*E. M. Loew* . . . Feb. 2

OKLAHOMA CITY—*State* . . . Jan. 31

OMAHA—*Brandeis* . . . Jan. 31

SIOUX CITY—*Orpheum* . . . Feb. 1

BETHLEHEM—*Boyd* . . . Feb. 7

EASTON—*Boyd* . . . Feb. 7

HARRISBURG—*Colonial* . . . Feb. 7

ALLENTOWN—*Colonial* . . . Feb. 8

READING—*Embassy* . . . Feb. 21

PITTSBURGH—*J. P. Harris* . . . Feb. 3

JOHNSTOWN—*Embassy* . . . Feb. 2

CLARKSBURG—*Robinson Grand* . . . Feb. 3

ERIE—*Colonial* . . . Feb. 2

MORGANTOWN—*Metropolitan* . . . Feb. 2

ALTOONA—*Capitol* . . . Feb. 1

WHEELING—*Court* . . . Feb. 8

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—*Senate* . . . Feb. 1

COLUMBIA, MO.—*Uptown* . . . Feb. 10

WASHINGTON—*Earl & Ambassador*...Feb. 22

BALTIMORE—*Hippodrome* . . . Feb. 1

NEWPORT NEWS—*Palace* . . . Feb. 1

NORFOLK—*Newport & Colley* . . . Feb. 8

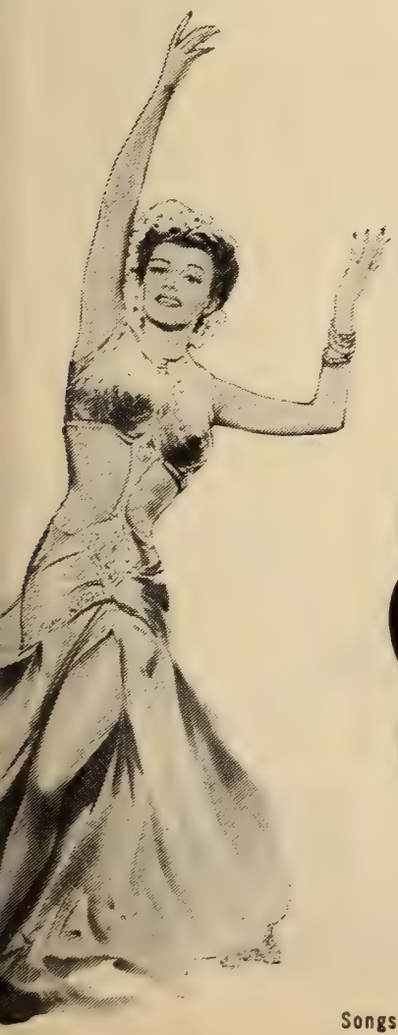
PORTSMOUTH—*Gates* . . . Feb. 10

RICHMOND—*Byrd & State* . . . Feb. 1

ROANOKE—*Grandin* . . . Feb. 4

CUMBERLAND—*Maryland* . . . Feb. 6

PETERSBURG—*Century* . . . Feb. 11



COLUMBIA PICTURES presents

Rita HAYWORTH

TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT

WITH JANET BLAIR · LEE BOWMAN

MARC PLATT · LESLIE BROOKS

in TECHNICOLOR

Screen Play by Lesser Samuels and Abem Finkel

Songs by Jule Styne and Sammy Cahn · Produced and Directed by VICTOR SAVILLE

French Business Hit By Transportation, Robert Riskin Says

U. S. companies are encountering severe difficulties in transporting films in France, and the Office of War Information overseas film bureau will render assistance in this direction whenever it can, Robert Riskin, chief of the bureau, revealed in a trade press interview at the weekend. Although the companies have enough prints for those Hollywood films already in France, and are sending additional negatives, the raw stock situation there remains critical. While in France, Riskin sought to obtain needed coal and transportation priorities for the Eastman Kodak plant.

Denies Resignation

Riskin, who returned here recently after spending two months in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg, denied, in response to a question, that he would resign from his OWI post, stating that he hoped to head the film bureau until the end of the war. Riskin said that original plans to cut down production in New York and transfer it to Hollywood so as to arouse interest there in making documentaries and also permit the OWI to avail itself of Hollywood talent, have been somewhat altered as the result of the lag in the successful termination of the war in the West.

Future production calls for 18 films, some of feature length, divided equally between Hollywood and New York, and dubbed in as many as 23 languages. The bureau's production unit in London will also be continued, turning out combined newsreels, plus a supplement to United Newsreels, Riskin said. Close to 3,500 theatres are operating in France.

Hochfield Is Headed For SPG Presidency

Harry Hochfield, incumbent vice-president of the Screen Publicists Guild of New York, is unopposed for the presidency to succeed Jonas Rosenfeld, who has vacated office. Bob Ferguson, first vice-president and Charles Wright, treasurer, are also unopposed for re-election.

Al Hirsch, incumbent secretary, is opposed for election as second vice-president by Vivian Moses. Charles Cohen and Fred Hodgson are candidates for the secretaryship.

Hauser to MBS

B. J. Hauser, sales promotion manager of the Blue Network since 1942, has joined Mutual Broadcasting as cooperative program director.

MITCHELL MAY, Jr. CO., INC.
INSURANCE
•
Specializing in requirements of the Motion Picture Industry
75 Maiden Lane, New York
510 W. 6th St., Los Angeles

Grosses Hold up at N. Y. First Runs After Holiday

(*Continued from page* 1)

fourth week at the Strand; the third week's receipts were $63,000. The Capitol expects $63,000 for the third week of "Music for Millions" and a Tommy Dorsey band show, on the basis of $45,000 registered for the first four days. The second week's gross was close to $85,000. All three films will continue.

"The Keys of the Kingdom," at the Rivoli; "Can't Help Singing," at the Criterion, and "Meet Me in St. Louis," at the Astor, are satisfactory. The Rivoli expects a second week of $42,000 for "Kingdom"; first week's gross was $54,500. The Criterion recorded $35,000 for the second week of "Can't Help Singing"; first week's receipts hit a house record of nearly $51,000. Sixth week of "Meet Me in St. Louis" brought the Astor $32,000 after $42,000 was recorded for the fifth.

"Tomorrow the World" is showing good stamina at the Globe with $15,000 expected for the third week; this will be close to the $17,500 record in the second week. "The Sign of the Cross" continues to draw at the Victoria, with $16,000 expected for the third week after the second week's receipts reached an all-time high of $26,400 to surpass the initial week's gross of $24,000. "Fighting Lady" will open at the Victoria on Jan. 17 due to a prior booking.

"Experiment Perilous" has been drawing well at the Palace with $21,000 expected for the second week, after $31,900 was registered in the initial week. "To Have and Have Not" is expected to bring a satisfactory $19,000 for its 13th week at the Hollywood after a big $34,000 was recorded for the 12th. "House of Frankenstein" is expected to bring the Rialto $8,500 on a fourth and final week after $17,000 was recorded for the third week. "The Man in Half Moon Street" will open at the Rialto Friday. "Lake Placid Serenade" will conclude a third and final week at the Republic with about $5,500 after a second week which brought $6,000. "The Great Flamarion" will open at the Republic Saturday.

Republic Has 32% Increase

(*Continued from page* 1)

wards of $1,000,000 each month, and will continue to promote each such film through an advertising-publicity expenditure of at least $250,000.

Bookings on Roy Rogers' pictures have increased 40 per cent.

In addition to William Saal, executive assistant to Yates, and sales managers and home office executives, the following branch managers were present: Arthur Newman, Jack Bellman, Jerome Lewis, Joseph Engel, Jake Flax, Sam P. Gorrel, George H. Kirby, I. H. Pollard, E. H. Brauer, Sydney Lehman, Grover C. Schaefer, Abe Weiner.

Following tomorrow's meeting Yates, Grainger, district sales managers, and a home office group will leave for Chicago, where a three-day conference will take place at the Blackstone Hotel, Thursday through Saturday.

Edwards to Minnesota

Directly following Republic's Chicago sales meeting, Steve Edwards, director of publicity, will visit the Mesabi iron range in Minnesota to gather material for the company's forthcoming "The Iron Master," which will start shooting in March. He will also arrange for a world premiere in Duluth. Following his Minnesota visit, he will proceed to the Coast for a stay at the studio.

Host Schildkraut Today

Trade press and fan and general magazine representatives will attend a Republic reception for Joseph Schildkraut today at the Waldorf-Astoria.

Paramount Signs Altec

Paramount Pictures has signed Altec Service for its Netco Theatre Corp. houses.

Separate Decree Peace Unlikely

(*Continued from page* 1)

Wright said that no overtures of that kind have been made to the Department of Justice.)

The only consent decree which will be considered, a Department spokesman said, will cover nothing more than trade practices.

While an individual defendant in an anti-trust suit can enter into an individual consent decree, Department officials said such a step in most cases is impractical, since the decree would depend to considerable extent on what the other defendants did. Whether the deal accorded an individual defendant would be proffered to other defendants also would depend upon the circumstances, but it is probable that if the Department accepted a decree in which it relinquished some of the claims to one company, the others undoubtedly could come in and secure the same terms.

Department officials refused to comment on the possible procedure in such an instance but admitted that, in the past, individual defendants in suits involving a number of companies have entered into separate decree agreements.

SPU Urges IMPPA To Give Recognition

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 8.—The Screen Players Union today addressed a communication to the Independent Motion Picture Producers Association suggesting that the Independents recognize their organization as a bargaining agent for extra players on the basis of the NLRB certification, covering major studios, which followed the Dec. 17 election.

An IMPPA spokesman told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that such a communication, if received, would be taken up by the executive committee for consideration.

Outstanding Service Award Given Blank

(*Continued from page* 1)

nine former winners, was based on the film executive's many "outstanding services to the community," among which was his recent donation to the city of the $300,000 Raymond Blank Memorial Hospital for children. He was also cited for his activities as chairman of the War Activities Committee in Iowa-Nebraska, and his heading of the WAC's work in publicizing war loan drives. In addition, the jury was guided by Blank's work as head of activities for the Midwest film industry's various Iowa Red Cross campaigns, USO and March of Dimes drives.

Iturbi, Melchior Set Dates with 'Millions'

James A. Davidson, formerly with Grand National Films and now president of the William Morris Agency Concert Bureau, is working with the M-G-M booking department on "Music for Millions," setting concert appearances for Jose Iturbi in cities day and date with the opening of the film.

First booking will be Feb. 9 in Springfield, Mass., with the pianist-conductor and film opening at the same time. Davidson intends to follow the same procedure with Lauritz Melchior when the tenor's new M-G-M picture is released, probably in March.

Rogers to Make 4 At $5,250,000

(*Continued from page* 1)

Donlevy, budgeted at $1,000,000; "Varga Girl," a musical in color, costing an estimated $2,000,000, and scheduled to start in October, and "One Man's Family," based on the radio serial by Carlton Morse, costing $750,000.

"Delightfully Dangerous," a musical featuring Morton Gould and Jane Powell, has been finished, but because of the raw stock shortage, will not be released by UA before late February or early March, Rogers said. Rogers said some eight to 10 months will be utilized in exploiting "Varga Girl," with a series of national contests to select girls from 12 regions.

Decorators Delay Studio Walkout

(*Continued from page* 1)

William Davis is sending an arbitrator to settle the jurisdictional dispute between the decorators and the IATSE.

The decorators had voted five to one in favor of a strike, and Sorrell said this vote authorizes him and the local's officers to call out the workers whenever they consider it necessary, but added that time will be allowed for the WLB arbitrator to arrive here and take action.

Bonded Film Storage Corp.
LOWEST RATES
TWICE-A-DAY DELIVERY SERVICE
SAFETY • SECURITY
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Circle 6-0081-2-3-4
STORAGE & C. A. PROJECTION ROOM FILM EXCHANGE DISTRIBUTION SERVIC

Steffes and Variety Lauded at Banquet

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 8.—State and local and film dignitaries at the weekend lauded W. A. Steffes, Northwest Variety Club retiring chief barker, at a testimonial banquet tendered by the Variety Club to Steffes in recognition of his accomplishments. Under his leadership, the club last year raised more than $100,000 for charities.

Ben Berger, Steffes' partner in numerous enterprises, introduced Bill Elson, independent circuit owner, as toastmaster. Other speakers included the Minneapolis and St. Paul mayors; John J. Friedl, who told of the charity work of Variety; Steffes himself, who gave credit to his board and club members for successful undertakings, and A. W. Anderson, chief barker elect.

Friedl cited the local tent's $25,000 contribution to war sufferer's relief, a gift of 125,000 quarts of milk in a year to underprivileged Minneapolis families, donations of radios and equipment to General Hospital here.

Among other guests were judges, council members and the State Attorney General. Those from out-of-town included Harry Thomas, Monogram Eastern sales manager; Pete Harrison, publisher of *Harrison's Reports;* Harry Burnell, Chicago exhibitor, and numerous other theatre owners. Telegrams paying tribute to Steffes were sent by Tom Connors, R. J. O'Donnell, John H. Harris, Jack Schlaifer, and others.

Code for Existing Theatres Due Next

(*Continued from page* 1)

industry, expects to complete consideration of the proposed code in about three more meetings, it was said here yesterday. The code will then go to Commissioner Corsi; next meeting will be held by the advisory committee on Jan. 19.

Representatives of this industry on the advisory committee have been asked to furnish information about the effect of theatre ventilators on stage curtains so that fire prevention provisions of the code can be made more practical. Progress is being made on all phases of the new code, which is not expected to cause any undue hardships upon the existing 750 theatres in New York State. The new code will not affect theatres in New York City, which come under the jurisdiction of New York City's code.

Industry representatives on the advisory committee are: Henry Anderson, Paramount; Martin J. Tracey, Century Circuit; Theodore Junge, alternate for Harry Moskowitz, Loew's, and Glen H. Humphrey of Projectionists' Local No. 337.

Christenberry Reelected

Robert K. Christenberry, president of the Hotel Astor, was yesterday reelected, for a fifth term, president of the Broadway Association to which most Broadway theatres belong.

12 Auditors of 20th Open Meeting Today

A three-day conference of 20th Century-Fox traveling auditors will start today at the home office, continuing until Thursday, after which the 12 auditors will return to their respective branches. The discussions, an annual affair, are to be under the supervision of Wilfred J. Eadie, comptroller, and will be conducted by his assistants, branch accountants Nat Brower and Maurice Goodman.

Vice-presidents W. C. Michel and Tom Connors, general sales manager W. J. Kupper, sales managers W. C. Gehring, A. W. Smith, Jr. and L. J. Schlaifer, will address the auditors.

The auditors attending will include L. R. Antos, George F. Cooper, R. Doherty, William Gunzelman, E. S. Hannahan, R. Hildreth, F. E. Hinnant, E. Pelson, M. Schmalzbach, C. Wagner, A. C. Wilson, B. Wolff.

WB Plans $100,000 'To Have' Campaign

Warners will launch a $100,000 radio campaign for "To Have and Have Not" next week, it was disclosed here yesterday by Mort Blumenstock, head of advertising and publicity in the East. This is the first large scale national spot advertising undertaken by Warners and the result will determine the company's future radio activity.

Stations in approximately 100 key cities will be used.

See Restrictions On Theatre Labor

(*Continued from page* 1)

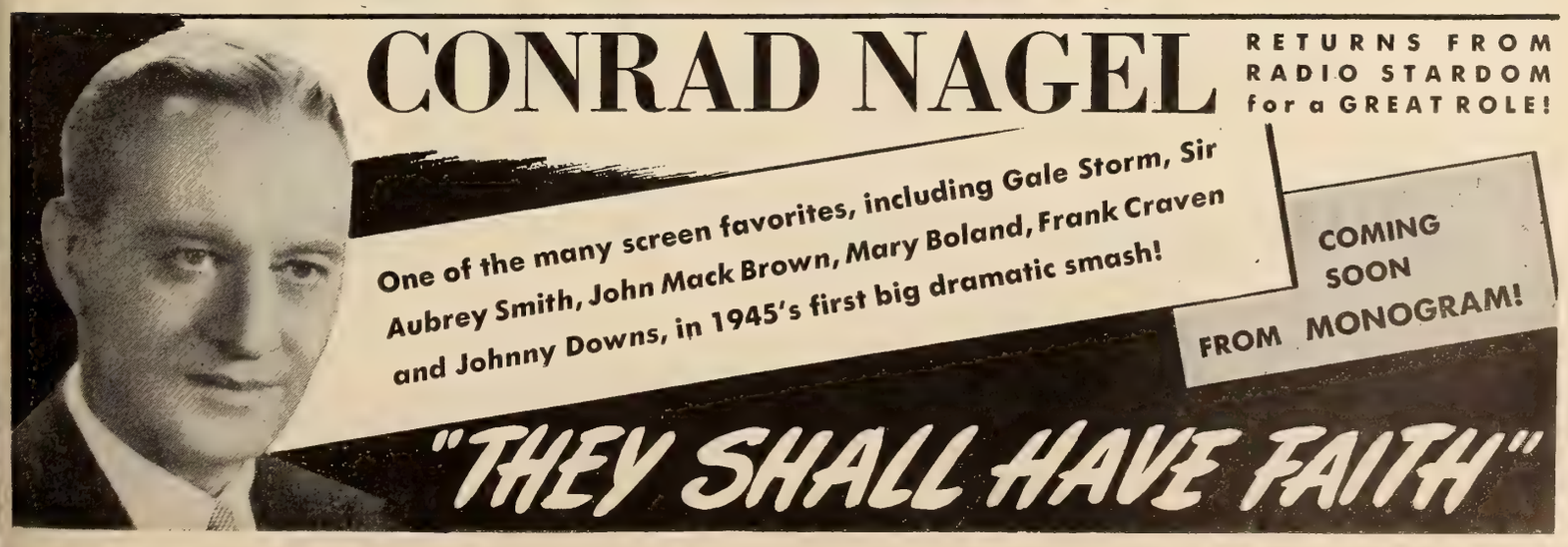
Because of the invaluable service theatres are rendering, it was explained, there is no idea of closing them, and it is not believed that booth labor will be affected. There are, nevertheless, out-front jobs which manpower officials believe can be filled by women, and it is felt that any orders issued will be directed along these lines.

There has been no indication whether production or distribution will be affected, but in some quarters, it was said, privately, that the new orders might also go into those fields but with the same idea of protecting the industry against a shutdown.

Screens to Tell Public Of Manpower Crisis

The War Department will utilize screens to bring its message regarding the manpower shortage to the American people, according to an announcement from the War Activities Committee here yesterday.

Robert P. Patterson, Under Secretary of War, and Lt. General Brehon Somervell, have joined in an appeal to the WAC to provide showings of the new War Department short subject, "What's Your Name?", nine-minute film produced by the Army Pictorial Service, Signal Corps, highlighting the present labor situation by comparing the doughboy doing his fighting in the infantry with the factory worker.



Cooperation Pays Off!

PROMPT REDESIGNING of projector carbons to wartime needs became essential, after Pearl Harbor. Long years of research and manufacturing experience enabled National Carbon Company not only to make the needed changes at once, but also to produce "National" carbons that gave virtually the same screen brilliance as before.

Aiding us was the welcome technical cooperation of exhibitor, projectionist, and lamp manufacturer. Throughout the many months of war, this cooperation has "paid off" for all concerned.

Of special importance is the "dividend" paid off to the war effort by the enormous quantities of copper saved through recovery of copper drippings and stripping of copper from carbon stubs.

Because of all these cooperative efforts, patrons have overflowed theaters everywhere for the beneficial relaxation of good movies.

Keep Your Eye on the Infantry . . .

the Doughboy Does It!

The registered trade-mark "National" distinguishes products of National Carbon Company, Inc.

NATIONAL CARBON COMPANY, INC.

Unit of Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation

UCC

General Offices: 30 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y.

Division Sales Offices: Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Kansas City, New York, Pittsburgh, San Francisco

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

VOL. 57. NO. 7 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1945 TEN CENTS

1,500 Workers Get $495,000 In Back Wages

WLB Approves Pacts for Nine Exchange Cities

Regional War Labor Boards have approved retroactive 10 per cent wage increases for 1,500 film exchange service employes—shippers, inspectors and poster clerks in nine exchange cities. Involved is some $495,000 in retroactive pay.

Cities in which the wage increases have been approved are: New York, Buffalo, Albany, Atlanta, Dallas, Oklahoma City,

(Continued on page 6)

'U' Advertising Plan To Aid New Names

Universal is appropriating several hundred thousand dollars to underwrite the cost of a plan, devised by the sales and advertising department, whereby exhibitors will be aided in promoting new Universal players, W. A. Scully, vice-president and general sales manager, announced here yesterday. The plan will involve a series

(Continued on page 6)

Continue '4-A' Merger Plan Without SAG

Plans for a trial merger of the '4A' actor unions will proceed despite the refusal of the Screen Actors Guild to participate at the present time. Groundwork has already been set in meetings between committees representing Act-

(Continued on page 6)

Half-Million in Four Weeks for 'Velvet'

"National Velvet" will end its fourth week at Radio City Music Hall, this evening, with an expected gross of $500,000, establishing what is believed to be an alltime industry record for that period.

Expansion Is Republic Aim

Disclosure of expansion plans of Republic Pictures highlighted the second day's session of a three-day meeting of district and branch managers and home office personnel at the New York Athletic Club here yesterday, presided over by James R. Grainger, president and general sales manager.

H. J. Yates, Sr.

Herbert J. Yates, Sr., chairman of the board, reported that Republic's program of building manpower for the interna-

(Continued on page 6)

Hollywood WAC in 1945 Meet Monday

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 9.—Francis Harmon, Taylor Mills and Ted Gamble will outline the 1945 program and conduct the installation of officers, at the annual meeting of the War Activities Committee, Hollywood division, on Monday, at Perino's Restaurant here. John Cromwell will succeed

(Continued on page 7)

Fabian Names WAC Manpower Comm.

Si Fabian, chairman of the WAC theatres division, has appointed a war manpower committee to confer directly with Washington on the present critical labor shortage.

The committee, headed by Harry Brandt, will provide assistance and information to local committees whose problems are related to the national situation. Other committee members are: Harry Kalmine, assistant general manager of Warner Theatres; Edward Rugoff of Rugoff and Becker; Jay Emanuel, publisher of *The Exhibitor*, and William Crockett, president of the MPTO of Virginia.

Coleman, Lesueur To Represent Rank

TORONTO, Jan. 9.—Representation of Odeon Theatres of Great Britain in General Theatre Corp., Ltd., Toronto, and Canadian Odeon was completed today with the following elected directors for J. Arthur Rank's British interests:

D. C. Coleman, who is president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, chairman of Associated Screen News, Ltd., and a director of the Bank of Montreal, Consolidated Mining and Smelting, and other companies; R. V. Lesueur, who is president of the Imperial Oil Co., Ltd., and a director

(Continued on page 3)

9,000 'Dimes' Pledges Give Drive Seven-Day Head Start

The 1945 March of Dimes Drive is seven days ahead of schedule, with two weeks to go before it begins, the National March of Dimes Committee, headed by Nicholas M. Schenck, reported here yesterday. Close to 9,000 pledges have been received with 16 states reporting more pledged theatres than participated in the drive last year.

Exhibitors who have seen "The Miracle of Hickory," this year's appeal trailer, predict that the unofficial goal of $5,000,000 will be reached, said the committee. Indications point to 14,000 theatres with over 10,000,000 seats being in the drive.

Exhibitors and distributors in New York predict that all 700 theatres would be enrolled, against 92 per cent last year. George Mann, Northern California, reports all of that area's 485 theatres are pledged. Conn-

(Continued on page 7)

Look for 15% Amusement Drop in '45-46

Roosevelt Cites Budget Figures in His Message

By BERTRAM F. LINZ

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—Lower Government spending in the fiscal year which begins on July 1 will be reflected in a decline in business and in reduced tax collections, President Roosevelt warned Congress today in his annual budget message.

In the case of amusements, it was indicated by the budget figures which accompanied the message, the decline in business may run to about 15 per cent from present levels, the Treasury estimating that revenue from the admission tax, other

(Continued on page 10)

Minnesota Owners Seek Tax Solution

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 9.—In the face of heavy opposition from film interests, a special committee of the state's mayors' group now is considering another possible source for needed additional municipality revenue in place of a proposed municipal theatre admission tax. The committee believes that a larger slice of the state public utility gross earning tax would solve

(Continued on page 10)

RKO Heads Honor Meakin January 15

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—Washington's amusement world and industry leaders will honor Hardie Meakin, newly appointed RKO Theatres assistant division manager here, at a testimonial dinner Jan. 15, at the Wil-

(Continued on page 10)

Reviewed Today

Review of "The Big Bonanza" appears on page 6.

Do it now! Sign that Pledge! March of Dimes — Jan. 25-31

Biddle Hit on Bioff, Browne Releases

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—U. S. Attorney General Francis Biddle today was under fire as a result of the release from prison of George E. Browne, former IATSE president, and William Bioff, his Hollywood representative. In Hollywood, the 'IA' sound technicians local has condemned the release of the two and asked the Senate Judiciary Committee to investigate.

In Congress, Representative Smith of Wisconsin, has called for Biddle's impeachment. Smith charged that the Attorney General "made a deal" with the two union men, which Biddle denied in a statement in which he declared they had turned informers, and enabled the Department of Justice to break up a Chicago underworld gang. "Therefore," he explained, "when motion was made by attorneys for Bioff and Browne to reduce sentence of these two informers, the Government interposed no objection."

Supreme Court Appeal

Meanwhile, it was expected that the seven men convicted in New York with the assistance of Browne and Bioff on charges of conspiracy to extort more than $1,000,000 from the industry under threats of strikes, will seek a Supreme Court review of their cases. It is dubious that they will be heard, however, since the Clerk of the Court in New York, has informed MOTION PICTURE DAILY that less than one case in a thousand is granted a hearing in the Supreme Court, when a unanimous opinion prevails in the Circuit Court of Appeals. Six of the men are serving seven-year sentences and the seventh, Louis Kaufman, former business agent for the IATSE in Newark, is still out on $25,000 bail, seeking a mandate from the Circuit Court staying his jail term until he can file an appeal to the Supreme Court.

B-45 to Petition for An Additional 10%

CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—IATSE Local B-45 will seek an additional 10 per cent increase when the local War Labor Board approves the retroactive 10 per cent raise now pending, it is disclosed here by Sam Lamansky, business manager. The petition now before the board, and favored by distributors, was filed several months ago.

Action will be taken on the new demand, which is based upon the rising cost of living, at B-45's Jan. 19 meeting, provided the WLB has acted favorably on the now pending petition.

Army Sends SOS For Film Editors

The U. S. Civil Service Commission reports the War Department urgently needs film editors for military pictures. The positions will pay from $3,163 to $5,228 annually, and the work week will be 48 hours.

The posts are open to both men and women who are citizens.

Personal Mention

SPYROS SKOURAS, 20th-Fox president, has arrived on the Coast for studio conferences.

•

EDWARD COHEN, supervisor for South America, and LESLIE WHELAN, in charge of sales promotion for 20th Century-Fox International Corp., will leave this week for Latin America.

•

HARRY MOSKOWITZ and THEODORE JUNGE of the Loew construction department, New York, were recent Hartford visitors with HARRY F. SHAW of Loew's Poli Theatres of New England.

•

WILLIAM S. BACON, general manager of the Wiethe theatre circuit in Cincinnati, and MILDRED DIETZ, were married recently.

•

LEO MILLER, head booker for Warner Theatres in Los Angeles, is the father of a seven-pound baby boy.

•

H. M. BESSEY, Altec Service vice-president, has returned to New York from Detroit.

•

JOHN DELMONICA, chief of staff of Loew's Poli, New Haven, was married recently.

•

LOUIS BROWN, head of publicity for Loew's Poli New England theatres, is nursing a fractured foot.

•

JACK PAINTER, 20th Century-Fox producer-director, is in Salt Lake City filming exteriors.

•

DAVID LOEW will leave Hollywood for New York Friday on the Super-chief.

•

JOE SOLOMAN, United Artists Des Moines salesman, is hospitalized.

J. CHEEVER COWDIN, Universal chairman of the board, has returned to New York from California.

•

PFC. WILLIAM WOODWORTH, former assistant manager of the Wishart Theatre, Philadelphia, and now in New Caledonia, became the father of a daughter born last week in Philadelphia.

•

STEVE EDWARDS of Republic's home office advertising-publicity department will leave for the Coast today, with stopovers in Chicago and Minneapolis.

•

PVT. MORRIS PHILLIPS, former manager of the 56th Street Theatre, Philadelphia, wounded overseas, is hospitalized on Long Island, N. Y.

•

JOSEPH CHURILLA, assistant manager of Warner's Uptown, Philadelphia, became the father of a daughter last week.

•

O. J. HAZEN, operator of Service Theatre Supply Co., Salt Lake City, has returned from a trip into the territory.

•

C. J. FELDMAN, Universal division manager, and HUGH BRALEY, Paramount district manager, are in Salt Lake City.

•

MARGARET O'BRIEN, M-G-M star, is in New York, and will leave for Washington Jan. 17 for a "Dimes" broadcast on the 18th.

•

TOM SPECK, manager of the Trans-Lux Theatre, Philadelphia, became the father of a son last week.

•

GIFF DAVISON, head of RKO's Salt Lake City exchange, will leave that city soon for a West Coast meeting.

Depinet, Bamberger Get WAC Plaques

Ned E. Depinet, chairman of the War Activities Committee distributors' division for the past year, and Leon J. Bamberger, his assistant, were presented with plaques yesterday by the WAC, for their services. George J. Schaefer, WAC chairman, made the presentation at a staff luncheon at the Astor Hotel here.

Plaques were signed by Schaefer, Francis S. Harmon, WAC coordinator, and Herman Gluckman, treasurer.

Party for Schildkraut

Republic was host at a cocktail party at the Waldorf-Astoria yesterday to trade press and fan magazine representatives, in honor of Joseph Schildkraut, who leaves for the Coast today to start work in a new picture for the company.

Susan Peters Paralyzed

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Jan. 9.—Susan Peters, Hollywood actress, accidentally shot during a hunting trip on Jan. 1, is paralyzed from the waist down, but her physicians believe this is a temporary condition.

New Election Sought By Local 802 Members

Charging that the last two elections held by AFM Local 802, here, were not in accordance with the by-laws of the AFL, 58 members of the local have petitioned James C. Petrillo, president, and the AFM international executive board, to declare the last election null and void, and order a new one under impartial auspices. All the petitioners were unsuccessful candidates in the Dec. 7 election.

They also ask Petrillo for authority to seek a court order for a new election in the event neither he nor the board assume jurisdiction in the dispute.

SPU Request Sent to Independent Society

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 9.—The Screen Players Union, duplicating its action taken yesterday with respect to the Independent Motion Picture Producers Association, today requested the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers to recognize SPU as the bargaining agent for extra players on the strength of the certification by the National Labor Relations Board pertaining to the major studios.

Coming Events

Today — Republic sales meeting, New York.
Jan. 10-11—Columbia Broadcasting System's affiliate advisory board meeting, New York.
Jan. 11-13—Republic sales meeting, Blackstone Hotel, Chicago.
Jan. 13—RKO Chicago publicity staff meets with S. Barret McCormick, Chicago.
Jan. 15-22—IATSE executive committee meeting, Niccolet Hotel, Minneapolis.
Jan. 16—Tub Thumpers of America initiation, Parker House, Boston.
Jan. 17—Cinema Lodge theatre party, New York.
Jan. 21-22—Motion Picture Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, annual meeting, Charlotte.
Jan. 22-24—Public sales meeting, Hollywood.
Jan. 24—National Allied board of directors' meeting, Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus.
Jan. 25-31—March of Dimes campaign in theatres.
Feb. 2—Press Photographers Association dance and entertainment, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York.

Levey to Coast to Set Second for UA

Jules Levey, independent producer, will leave New York for Hollywood today to conclude arrangements for the second film he will produce for United Artists release this year.

Levey recently acquired rights to Ernest Haycox's "Trail Town," which he will place in production this Spring, to star Randolph Scott, with "The Homesteaders" as the probable release title. Levey plans to make the film in color and indicated here yesterday that the two films which he will produce will be budgeted at over $2,300,000. He will remain on the Coast indefinitely.

Sign IATSE Newsreel Editors' Contracts

Contracts between the five newsreels and the IATSE Motion film editors Local No. 771 have been signed and will be submitted to the War Labor Board here for approval within the next few days.

The contracts, which set up job classifications and minimum and maximum wage scales for over 110 film editors and librarians, mark the first contracts for these workers; benefits are retroactive.

Tree Heads Consolidated

Russell Tree, Northeastern district manager of the Carrier Corp., has resigned to become president of the Consolidated Conditioning Corp., of Mount Vernon, N. Y. Ray Duncan and Lewis Wachs, sales engineers for Carrier, have also left to join the Consolidated sales staff.

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Murray Examined in $1,000,000 Suit

CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—Lester T. Murray, son of Thomas A. Murray, plaintiff in the $1,000,000 damage suit on trial in the Federal Court here against the distributors and circuits, took the stand this afternoon following four days of direct and cross-examination. He stated he had been his father's assistant for years, and recalled that the Thalia Theatre, until 1927, could buy all the films it needed.

After that, he said, the Thalia was forced out of better-product deals by Balaban and Katz, which allegedly influenced distributors to sell their best films to the competitive Milo Theatre in which Morris Leonard, Balaban and Katz counsellor, had a personal interest. He claimed the loss of M-G-M and half of Paramount's product in 1927 to the Milo hurt the most, since he rated those companies the best at that time.

Bill Would Limit Children at Work

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 9.—A bill to limit the employment of school children, many of whom are now working as film messengers and ushers in theatres, was introduced in the New York legislature today by Assemblyman John R. Brook of New York City.

Students between the ages of 16 and 17 would be limited to four hours' work in a school day and 28 hours a week during the school term, with an allowance of eight hours a day, six days a week, when school is not in session. Children under 16 would be permitted to work a maximum of three hours a day in a school day, 23 hours a week, and eight hours on a non-school day, six days a week.

Sees Television in Sales Meeting Links

Large-screen television equipment could be installed in public auditoriums in large cities and make possible national conventions without making it necessary for sales representatives to leave their territories, J. R. Poppele, president of the Television Broadcasters Association, told the members of the National Retail Dry Goods Association at their annual convention at the Hotel Pennsylvania here yesterday.

Poppele and other television leaders were featured at yesterday's sessions.

ATS Meeting Tomorrow

The American Television Society will meet here tomorrow night in the Museum of Modern Art auditorium. "The Comparative Effectiveness of Motion Pictures, Television and Radio" will be discussed by Lily Dache, Jo Copeland, Ira Hirschmann and Wyllis Cooper, with Allan T. Preyer as chairman.

Fisher Joins Warners

Franklin Fisher has joined Warners' field public relations staff under Bill Brumberg, Mort Blumenstock, head of advertising-publicity in the East, reported here yesterday. Fisher for the past several years covered film-stage news for New England newspapers.

Coleman and Lesueur Will Represent Rank in Canada

(*Continued from page* 1)

of Confederation Life Insurance Co., Montreal Trust Co., Kirkland Lake Gold Mining Co., Northern Canadian Mining Co., and others; John Davis of England for British Odeon and Leonard W. Brockington, K. C., of Ottawa, legal representative in Canada for Rank.

These represent the holders of "B" shares in General Theatre Corp. Representing "A" shareholders are George H. Beeston and T. J. Bragg, who have been with the company since 1941; J. Earl Lawson, K. C. and Paul L. Nathanson.

An official announcement says the company now constituted is completely under Canadian management with officers as follows: Nathanson president and managing director, Bragg vice-president and secretary-treasurer, Beeston comptroller, and Lawson director and general counsel.

Nathanson announced the formation of a partnership with A. I. Garson of St. John, N. B., for the development of a circuit of Odeon theatres in the three Maritime provinces, with Garson to be in charge of operations. He said building sites have been purchased in eight places in the Atlantic zone, including Sydney, St. John, Halifax, Amherst, Campbellton, Glace Bay, New Waterford and Charlottetown. Nathanson and Garson have completed the purchase of the theatre assets at Moncton, N. B., of Fred Winter and F. H. Sumner, comprising the Capitol and Express Theatres and two theatre sites. Garson already controlled the Garrick and Oxford Theatres in Halifax and the Kent at Moncton, while Odeon had the Casino in Halifax and operated the Capitol and Empress at Moncton.

The announcement said the development in the Maritimes is but part of a plan to be represented "in every city and progressive town in the Dominion. Many millions of dollars will be spent in theatre construction," it added.

Announcement Startles London Financiers

LONDON, Jan. 9.—J. Arthur Rank's announcement of the appointment of D. C. Coleman and R. V. Lesueur to represent him on the board of Odeon Theatres of Canada startled financial circles here tonight. Indications are that very strong British and Canadian interests will henceforth work together, with governmental 'blessing.'

Reagan Sees 'Cross' Doubling Old Gross

Cecil B. DeMille's "The Sign of the Cross," in its current release, will double the domestic gross of the original release in 1932, Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, predicted here yesterday.

Reagan said he based his prediction on the basis of the more than 6,000 contracts obtained in its first month of re-release and on box-office receipts of the first key situations.

The film cost about $1,250,000 to make 13 years ago—"it probably couldn't be made today for less than $5,000,000," Reagan estimated—and in its original release the domestic gross was around $700,000. With revenue from foreign distribution it just about broke even.

Among key dates up to now are: the Denham, Denver; Broadway Capitol, Detroit; Omaha, Omaha; Capitol, Salt Lake City; Melba, Dallas; Hollywood, Ft. Worth; Metropolitan, Houston; State, Austin; Missouri, St. Louis; Texas, San Antonio; State, Galveston; Paramount, Toledo; Keith's, Cincinnati; Majestic, Wichita Falls; Rialto, Champaign; Orpheum, Waco; Academy, Wheeling; Capitol, Worcester; Paramount, Springfield, Mass.; Hawaii, Los Angeles.

WB Promoting 'Canteen'

Warners is issuing a 16-page booklet, entitled "Movies and Morale," to approximately 12,000 educational and community groups in connection with "Hollywood Canteen." Produced by the company's educational bureau, the brochure contains a statement by Bette Davis, president and co-founder of Hollywood Canteen, and by-line articles by prominent writers.

Films, Radio Save Philippine Nation

"Radio enabled the United States to successfully invade the Philippine Islands, and motion pictures will enable my people to become rehabilitated and re-establish themselves as a nation," Brigadier General Carlos P. Romulo, resident commissioner of the Philippines to the United States, and a member of Congress, stated here yesterday.

General Romulo, the last man off Bataan, described how weak, home-made radio reports made contact with OWI receiving sets in Australia, and let General MacArthur know that guerrilla warfare was continuing on the Islands. American intelligence officers were landed there by submarine to organize the resistance and aid in sabotage, and over 5,000 guerrilla Philippine soldiers smashed Jap installations prior to our landing in Leyte alone.

The General will return to the Philippines within a fortnight, and will take with him documentary films and newsreels to re-educate his people and destroy Jap propaganda. He will also take many Hollywood films for recreational purposes. A one-reel film showing the Leyte invasion, with General Romulo as commentator, will be shown starting Friday in all Embassy Newsreel theatres here.

MGM's Contest Ends

M-G-M's 'Miss Anniversary Bathing Beauty Contest,' launched by Howard Dietz, vice-president and director of advertising, publicity and exploitation, and William R. Ferguson, exploitation director, last June as part of the company's 20-year anniversary celebration, has ended with the selection of winners in 26 states and the District of Columbia.

GI Fights Two Major Film Pass 'Battles'

Atlanta, Jan. 3. — Robert Wood, USA, of Hogansville, is a very film-minded soldier. Given a pass to the Royal Theatre in 1942, and unable to use it, he carried it wrapped in cellophane through two major campaigns in New Guinea before presenting it two years late, last Dec. 26, at the theatre. Wood said that he had lain in mud and water for 54 consecutive days worrying whether the pass would still be good. It was.

Skouras Extends War-Art Exhibit

The Army-At-War art exhibit's national schedule has been rearranged to provide a minimum of 14-day showings in each of the cities where it is yet to be shown, according to an announcement here yesterday by Charles P. Skouras, chairman of the national executive committee, and released through the 20th Century-Fox home office.

The exhibit, comprising some 150 paintings made by American artists in the various theatres of war, is being sponsored by the War and Treasury departments, with Skouras and other industry leaders handling actual details of the tour. The national committee is headed by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Mrs. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.

The show, which originally opened in New York last Fall, is now playing in Milwaukee. From Milwaukee the pictures will be taken to Minneapolis and thence to Seattle from which point they will begin a tour of leading Pacific Coast cities. The exhibit will not conclude the itinerary until December of this year.

"In every city," explained Skouras, "the exhibit is presented free to the public, with catalogues given with the purchase of war bonds and stamps."

Paine, Finkelstein To Havana Congress

John G. Paine, general manager, and Herman Finkelstein, resident counsel of ASCAP, will leave here Friday for Havana to attend the first Congress of La Federacion Interamericana de Sociedades de Autores Y Compositores. At this congress representatives of performing right societies throughout the Western Hemisphere will exchange views on the advancement of copyright owners' rights.

'Action' Opens Tomorrow

"Brought to Action," the Navy's film account of the Second Naval Battle of the Philippines, being distributed by the War Activities Committee, is scheduled to play 29 first-run houses in New York and New Jersey beginning tomorrow.

Fire Destroys Lyric

GUTHRIE, Ky., Jan. 9.—The Lyric Theatre here has been destroyed by fire. Loss is estimated at $50,000.

6 REASONS WHY LEO IS PROUD AS A PEACOCK!

1. "NATIONAL VELVET" BREAKS 9-YEAR RECORD OF RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL!

M-G-M Hit brings highest week's gross in history of house!

2. "MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS" IS THE NEW ASTOR THEATRE CHAMP!

Tops all previous records! Other cities doing delightfully ditto!

3. "THIRTY SECONDS OVER TOKYO" IS NATIONWIDE SMASH HIT!

From Coast-to-Coast M-G-M's Great Film packs them in!

4. "MUSIC FOR MILLIONS" WINS BROADWAY CASH AND CHEERS!

Producer of "2 Girls And A Sailor" does it again at Capitol, N. Y.

5. M-G-M's NEW GROUP OF 7 OFF TO A FLYING START!

"Music For Millions", "Thin Man Goes Home" first of Tenth Group!

6. M-G-M WINS TOP HONORS IN TRADE PRESS ANNUALS!

Exhibitors again vote Leo the box-office leader!

IT'S ANOTHER FRIENDLY YEAR!

Join March of Dimes!—Jan. 25 to 31

'Canteen's' $22,000 $8,500 Over Par

CINCINNATI, Jan. 9.—The longest box office lines currently are at RKO's Albee, where the star-studded "Hollywood Canteen" is moving toward an expected $22,000, over average by $8,500. "Winged Victory," after a terrific first week, is pulling practically average with $13,000 on a holdover, a rarity at this house. "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" looks like an over-par figure of $2,500 on a $9,000 take at RKO's Grand. Weather is cold and streets are hazardously icy.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 12:

"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
RKO ALBEE—(3,300) (44c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $13,500).

"Belle of the Yukon" (RKO)
RKO CAPITOL—(2,000) (44c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week, on a moveover from the Albee. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $10,000).

"Nevada" (RKO)
"Moonlight and Cactus" (Univ.)
RKO FAMILY—(1,000) (30c-40c) 7 days. Gross: $2,300. (Average: $2,400).

"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
RKO GRAND—(1,500) (44c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show; 3rd week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $6,500).

"Holiday Inn" (Para.)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (44c-50c-60c-70c) 10 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average for 7 days: $5,000).

"Tiger Shark" (WB)
"The Walking Dead" (WB)
RKO LYRIC—(1,400) (44c-50c-60c-70c) 4 days. Gross: $3,000. Average for 7 days: $5,000).

"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
RKO PALACE—(2,700) (44c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, plus a Saturday midnight show; 2nd week. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $13,500).

"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
RKO SHUBERT — (2,150) (44c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week, following an initial week at the Albee and a moveover week at the Capitol. Gross: $6,000. (Average: $5,000).

RKO Sales Executives Visiting Minneapolis

CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—Robert J. Folliard and Harry Gittleson, RKO captain and lieutenant respectively, of the eighth annual Ned Depinet Drive, were in Minneapolis yesterday for an exchange meeting following similar conferences held here and in St. Louis over the weekend.

The local meeting was attended by the entire Chicago and Milwaukee exchange staffs, Walter E. Branson, Western division sales manager, and Herbert Greenblatt, Midwest sales manager. Bob Dickey, Midwest publicity head, accompanied the drive leaders to Minneapolis.

Nangle, Tribune Critic

CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—Anna Nangle of the Chicago *Tribune* staff has succeeded Mrs. Frances Grover as film critic. Mrs. Grover will retire after 30 years as a reviewer. Her Mae Tinee by-line will be retained.

NBC Survey Luncheon

National Broadcasting will present a report to the press on its 1944 nationwide survey of listening habits at a luncheon at the Hotel Ritz Carlton here today.

WANTED
ANIMATION-CAMERAMAN
High Pay—Excellent Opportunity
CINEFFECTS
1600 Broadway New York City
Circle 6-6252

Review

"The Big Bonanza"

(Republic)

ALTHOUGH "The Big Bonanza" is handicapped by a rambling story, which eats up valuable screen time before it comes to the point, it does generate enough excitement and pathos in individual scenes to compensate for the slow beginning.

The screenplay, by Dorrell and Stuart McGowan, and Paul Gangelin, derived from Robert Presnell's and Leonard Praskins' original, furnished director George Archainbaud with stock situations; for those who would forego the masculine diet of sluggings, there are three or four melodies of another era, sung by Jane Frazee. The story concerns Richard Arlen, escaped from the Union Army after a court-martial for alleged cowardice, who journeys with George (Gabby) Hayes to Nevada Springs, where his boyhood friend, Robert Livingston, is running a dance hall and numerous shady enterprises on the side. He breaks with Livingston and rallies the ranchers and miners who have been defrauded by Livingston and, when his little brother, Bobby Driscoll, is threatened because he is a witness to a killing performed by Livingston's henchmen, a pitched battle ensues at the Big Bonanza mine. The gang is destroyed and Arlen is free to marry Lynne Roberts, having been cleared of the cowardice charge.

Others in the cast are: J. M. Kerrigan, Russell Simpson, Frank Reicher, Cordell Hickman, Hayward Soo Hoo, Roy Barcroft, Fred Kohler, Jr., Monte Hale. Eddy White was associate producer.

Running time, 69 minutes. "G."* Release date, Dec. 30, 1944.

CHARLES RYWECK

*"G" denotes general classification.

Examine Rinzler in Franchise Transfer

Samuel Rinzler will be examined before trial today by attorneys for Leader Theatre Corp., in connection with its action against 20th Century-Fox and Randforce Amusement Co., and which is scheduled for a New York Supreme Court trial about Feb. 1.

Suit charges that Randforce sold the Leader to the plaintiff, Leonard Storch, and that 20th-Fox gave the Leader franchise to another theatre in the Randforce circuit. Plaintiff asserts this transfer is illegal, and seeks damages and the 20th-Fox franchise.

Col. Sets 9 Advance 'Song' Engagements

Columbia has set pre-release runs for "A Song to Remember," being sold apart from the regular program, in nine key cities, starting Jan. 18 at the Orpheum, San Francisco, and Roxy, Oakland; Jan. 25 at Loew's Orpheum and State, Boston, RKO Capitol, Cincinnati, RKO Orpheum, New Orleans, and Loew's State, St. Louis; Feb. 7 at the Lafayette, Buffalo; Feb. 15 at the Hill Street and Pantages, Los Angeles, and Feb. 22 at the Palace, Dallas.

Continue '4-A' Merger Plan Without SAG

(Continued from page 1)

ors' Equity, Chorus Equity, American Federation of Radio Artists, American Guild of Musical Artists and the American Guild of Variety Artists.

The merger will be for a stated period, with the organizations continuing to function individually during that period.

CBS to Honor 'Vox Pop'

Columbia Broadcasting will honor Parks Johnson and Warren Hull of the "Vox Pop" radio show at a reception in the Hotel Berkshire here this afternoon.

1,500 Workers Get $495,000 Back-Pay

(Continued from page 1)

Memphis, Charlotte and Butte. The increases are retroactive to Dec. 1, 1942, for 110 weeks, with the average increase about $3 weekly per person.

The latest approvals bring to 17 the number approved to date for the IATSE exchange workers. Applications for similar increases are pending before the RWLB or are in the process of being filed for workers in the remaining 14 exchange cities.

David Halper, associate of ex-Judge Matthew M. Levy, both IATSE attorneys, has been meeting with film company exchange operational representatives to expedite the increases.

Also pending before the RWLB are additional applications for IATSE film exchange office workers, to establish a system of job classifications and minimum and maximum wage scales, plus a 10 per cent increase. Approval of these contracts has already been secured in many cities.

Bill to Outlaw AFM Record Tax Offered

CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—Representative Weber of this city introduced a bill in the Illinois House in Springfield, yesterday, to outlaw the American Federation of Musicians' tax on records.

If passed, manufacturers of any product would be prohibited from paying a levy to any union under penalty of up to $5,000 fine and one year's imprisonment for each violation.

Para. Bids for 'Land'

Paramount is the only film company so far to have bid for "Sing Out, Sweet Land," musical which is using mostly songs in the public domain. Paramount is one of the principal backers of the show, a Theatre Guild production. Asking price is understood to be over $100,000.

Expansion Is Republic Aim

(Continued from page 1)

tional field would continue, with particular reference to immediate expansion in Latin America. Republic recently announced the establishment of two new branch offices, in Peru and Colombia. Yates stated that announcement of additional operations in the foreign field would be made following a meeting with Morris Goodman, vice-president in charge of foreign sales. Goodman has just returned to this country after a three-months' trip during which he visited Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Trinidad, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Cuba. Goodman is expected at the Republic studio shortly to discuss product possibilities with studio vice-president Allen Wilson.

Elliott in 'Texan'

Yates reported that Wild Bill Elliott will be starred in the company's forthcoming "big-budget" picture, "The Fabulous Texan," based on "The Saga of Sam Bass"; and that his western series will have increased production budgets, as well as heavy advertising-publicity campaigns, including exhibitor cooperative campaigns in all key situations.

Yates also reported that a group of district and branch managers will visit the company's Hollywood studio this year, to become acquainted with studio operations and production.

Following today's session, Yates, Grainger, William Saal, Maxwell Gillis, Sam Seplowin, Jack Davis, and a home office group including E. L. Walton, Walter L. Titus, Jr., Albert Schiller, Si Borus, E. H. Seifert and Steve Edwards, will leave for Chicago. They will be joined there by Will Baker, Merritt Davis, Francis Bateman and branch managers for a meeting at the Blackstone Hotel tomorrow, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

'U' Advertising Plan To Aid New Names

(Continued from page 1)

of institutional cooperative advertisements to be placed by exhibitors on behalf of pictures which introduce new 'U' players.

The company, Scully said, plans to advertise extensively pictures which introduce new personalities, not only to aid in securing better box office returns, but also to help build new talent. Universal is now concentrating on eight new personalities.

Scully will leave for the Coast on Friday, remaining until Feb. 10. He will be accompanied by Maurice A. Bergman, Eastern advertising-publicity director.

USO Plans Anniversary

The USO will observe its fourth anniversary on Feb. 4. Plans are under way for a luncheon to be held here to coincide with the annual meeting of the board of directors. Other observances will be held in other cities.

Loew Board Meeting

Loew's board of directors held its monthly meeting yesterday, here.

India May Make Films in English

Indian producers, whose output amounts to 150 features annually, are eager to make pictures in English if they can secure world distribution, according to H. Chaudbury, business administrator of Bombay Talkies, Ltd., who was interviewed here. Indians are also desirous of having their national life realistically portrayed in Hollywood films, Chaudhury said, as they feel that product such as "Clive of India" and "And the Rains Came," are not representative of their country as the "Good Earth" is typical of Chinese life. This will serve to solidify the good relations between America and India which American soldiers stationed in that country have initiated, he said.

Welcome U. S. Production

Chaudhury, who is here from Bombay to study American production methods and buy studio equipment to replace existing material which is obsolete, said that his studio would welcome American production in India and would make available its facilities to such an enterprise.

Negotiations between Chaudhury and Technicolor have been initiated, he said, for a deal to bring the color process to Indian production. He has broached formation of a company in India either wholly backed by Indian capital and employing American technicians or a jointly owned company consisting of U. S. and Indian money. Indian producers eagerly anticipate the introduction of color in their country because of the elements which would lend themselves to its use.

20 Annually After War

Chaudhury said that his studio plans to produce 20 films yearly after the war when it will have expanded to five sound stages.

Great good-will is being built up between the two countries, Chaudhury said, by the showing of the Office of War Information documentaries and United News.

Indian studios are modern and well-equipped, comparing favorably to some of the smaller American production units, Chaudhury said.

Chaudhury will remain in this country for several months before his return to Bombay.

Hollywood WAC in 1945 Meet Monday

(*Continued from page* 1)

Mary McCall, Jr., in the chairmanship. Tom Baily will succeed John C. Flinn as coordinator. E. J. Mannix will continue as vice-chairman. On the new executive committee are Bert Allenberg, Fred W. Beetson, Harry Brand, Trem Carr, Y. Frank Freeman, Emmet Lavery, George Murphy, Kenneth Thomson and Walter Wanger.

'U' Dividend

Universal has declared a regular quarterly dividend of 50 cents per share on company stock payable Jan. 31, to stockholders of record on Jan. 17, it has been announced here by J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of Universal's board.

9,000 'Dimes' Pledges Give Drive Seven-Day Head Start

(*Continued from page* 1)

ecticut has passed last year's enrollment and is aiming at $100,000 against $78,000 last year. South Carolina expects to double last year's total, while Arkansas has 60,000 seats pledged, thousands more than last year.

National Screen Service has shipped 6,000 trailers to its exchanges, with the balance due on Jan. 12.

At Rochester, exhibitors will combine with the local National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in a Dimes meeting tomorrow. Basil O'Connor, president, will speak, and exhibitor chairmen Pollock and Golden will be on hand.

Many theatre managers have 'jumped the gun' and have already put into operation lobby stunts. In Jersey City, a theatre installed a huge 'birthday card' in the lobby; patrons put dimes in holes in the card and in two days it was filled twice with a total take of $132. In the Bronx, the Paradise and in Manhattan, the 175th Street Theatre, tested a new stunt, a fish-bowl filled with coins; patrons guess how many dimes are in the bowl, making a donation with each guess. Award is a $25 war bond. The 175th Street reported $417 in six days and the Paradise $78 in four days.

178 More Theatres Pledge for 'Dimes'

Nine additional circuits, comprising 178 theatres, this week pledged for the March of Dimes drive, it was announced by circuit chairman J. R. Vogel. The pledges were:

Lam Amusement Co., Rome, Ga., 12 theatres; Blumenfeld Theatres, San Francisco, 29; T. and D., Jr., Enterprises, San Francisco, 59; Evergreen Theatres, Seattle, 40; Andrew Tegu Theatres, Vermont, 5; Jos. Mathieu Theatres, Mass., 9; Middlesex Amusement, Malden, Mass., 7; George Giles Theatres, Boston, 9; Charles Morse Theatres, Boston, 8.

New England States Top 'Dimes' in 1944

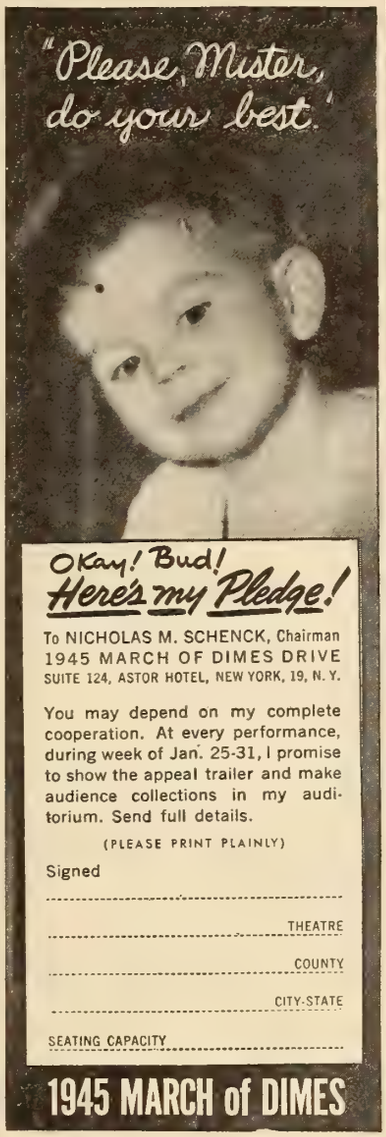
BOSTON, Jan. 9.—All five New England states now have more theatres enrolled in the March of Dimes drive than participated in the entire drive in 1944, it was reported today by M. J. Mullin, New England chairman. Massachusetts heads the list with 310 theatres signed up to the weekend, against 300 last year.

Rhode Island passed last year's total a week ago, and New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine have all exceeded their 1944 figures.

'Dimes' Aides Set by Arthur in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 9.—Harry C. Arthur, Jr., state chairman for theatres in the 1945 March of Dimes, has appointed his committees for St. Louis and St. Louis County.

Appointed co-chairman were: Louis K. Ansell, Paul Krueger, Thomas James, Al Poos, and Henry C. Riegel, Jr. Others appointed included Herb Washburn, trailers and accessories and Lester Bona, Warner branch manager, who will act as co-distributor chairman under Tom Connors. M. L. Plessner will handle theatre publicity and the general campaign.



Jack Benny is Due For 'Dimes' Shows

National Broadcasting will honor Jack Benny at a press luncheon at the Hotel Sherry Netherland Friday. Benny is due here from Hollywood Friday morning for a series of appearances for the March of Dimes drive and for four weekly broadcasts.

He will make an appearance at Rockefeller Center, Jan. 15, in connection with the opening of the Dimes drive and will then appear at Carnegie Hall, Jan. 20; Philadelphia Academy of Music, Jan. 23, and at Boston Symphony Hall, Jan. 29.

Brackett, OWI Deputy

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—OWI director Elmer Davis has designated James R. Brackett as senior deputy and liaison with the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion.

Prager Joins RKO

CHICAGO, Jan. 9.—Bill Prager, former Quigley Publications representative in Seattle, has been named a publicity field representative for RKO here.

Companies' Revenue In Argentina Lags

U. S. distributors' business in Argentina has increased only slightly in the last year, despite a rise in theatre business of from 30 to 40 per cent in the last few years in that country, informed foreign department sources have reported here. This gap was ascribed to the method of selling used by most distributors there: flat rentals except for first-runs; consequently, the better theatre business is not completely reflected in distributors' revenues.

Exhibitors have experienced no hardship from the quota laws, which became effective last Sept. 1, as yet, because they have been able to draw on a backlog of 15 Argentine pictures. Native exhibitors, however, are still using American product as the basis of programs.

The Argentine government is attempting to boost its film production to a minimum of 60 films yearly from 40. This year only 25 or 30 will be produced because of the lack of raw stock, as none is entering the country from the U. S.

Argentine exhibitors are still protesting against the quota decree, and are especially disturbed at the percentage clause, which, in effect, they say, serves to subsidize Argentine producers.

Para. Reports Army Personnel Advances

The following military promotions of Paramount personnel have been reported to the Paramount servicemen's committee: Capt. Jack Dailey, district advertising representative in Dallas and Atlanta, promoted to major. Major Dailey has been in charge of film distribution in the military area of Italy, Sicily and North Africa. Jack Brickel, formerly of the New York Paramount Theatre, has been promoted to captain and is now serving in India.

Harry Schlar, former booker at the company's Boston exchange, has been advanced to lieutenant and is now stationed at Camp Planche, La. Parmely W. Urch, formerly of the home office, now with the First Allied Airborne Army in Europe, has been promoted to sergeant.

Three Circuits Sign For Mono. Product

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 9.—Three additional circuits, comprising 120 theatres, have signed for Monogram's 1944-45 product. Circuits are: Martin Theatres, with 75 houses in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee; Interstate Theatres, 38 houses in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont; Co-At-Co Theatres, with seven in Georgia and North Carolina.

Crandall Joins Stone

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 9.—Milton Crandall, veteran of 10 years of film promotion campaigns, mostly with United Artists, has been appointed studio head of press and promotion for Andrew Stone, U. A. producer. Crandall's first assignment will be on "Bedside Manner."

The Critics and the Crowd

"Has arrived on the motion-picture scene at the last possible 1944 moment, but it belongs in the front rank of the year's mystery thrillers."

— HOWARD BARNES, N. Y. HERALD TRIBUNE

"Absorbing melodrama . . . Hedy Lamarr is perfectly cast as the most beautiful woman of her time . . . the direction is worthy of much praise."

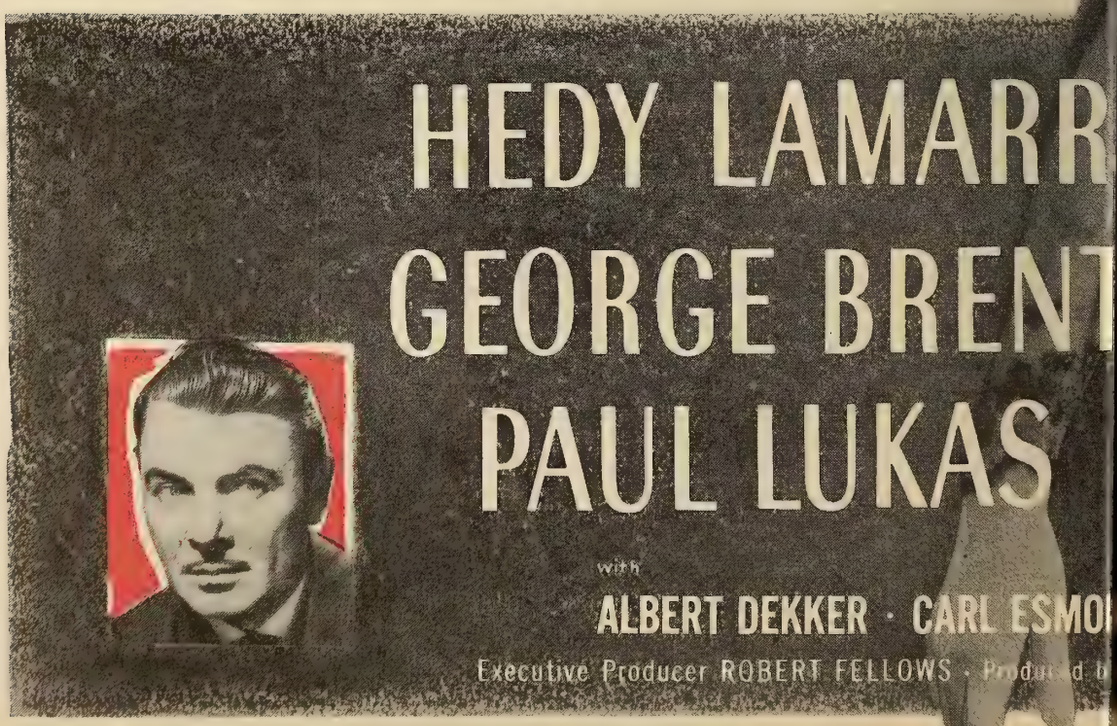
— WANDA HALE, N. Y. DAILY NEWS

"Easily one of the better melodramas that has come this way . . . Well- calculated to hold your attention."

— BOSLEY CROWTHER, N. Y. TIMES

"Thrilling . . . tops all . . . Miss Lamarr's performance is the best she's turned in . . . Paul Lukas is stupendous, and George Brent just the sort of rescuer Hedy should have."

— LEE MORTIMER, N. Y. DAILY MIRROR



SIGN THAT PLEDGE! MARCH OF DIMES! (JAN. 25-31)

s Agree!

"Topnotch murder mystery. Story unfolds quietly, logically. Slowly the mystery grows, the suspense tightens. The ending is high-old melodrama."

— EILEEN CREELMAN, N. Y. SUN

"Grapples with one of the screen's tougher hazards— and comes off very well. Audiences have effective set of shudders awaiting them."

— ALTON COOK, N. Y. WORLD-TELEGRAM

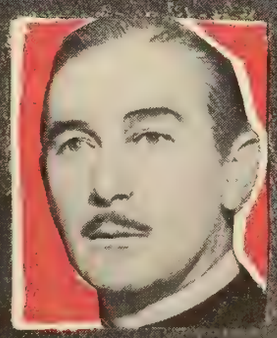
"The theme is provocative; the performances compelling. . . . Hedy never looked lovelier, and you can well believe that a mental quirk made Paul Lukas the heel he is. George Brent's administrations are nobly heroic."

— IRENE THIRER, N. Y. POST

"A cut above most thrillers, in addition to its heavyweight cast."

— JOHN T. McMANUS, PM

Experiment Perilous"



VE BLAKENEY · MARGARET WYCHERLY

UFF · Directed by JACQUES TOURNEUR · Screen Play by WARREN DUFF

RKO RADIO PICTURES

Minnesota Owners Seek Tax Solution

(Continued from page 1)

the problem for needy towns and cities and make the admission tax unnecessary. It has decided to investigate the matter fully before reporting back to the group.

At a recent Twin City meeting, the mayors went on record in favor of an enabling act by the state legislature to permit municipalities to tax theatre admissions, but referred the proposition to the special committee now making the study of the matter. In the meanwhile, however, many mayors and local officials in cities and towns throughout the state have started to line up support for the proposed measure in the next legislature, convening soon. The state legislature also would have to pass legislation alloting a larger share of the utility tax to the municipalities.

Exhibitors have been greatly disturbed over the move not only because they feel any further scale tilts would injure patronage, but also because the proposal would make information on their grosses public property.

Philadelphia Variety Installs Clint Weyer

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 9. — Clint Weyer has been installed as local Variety's 11th chief barker. More than 150 members and guests attended the dinner and ceremonies held here recently at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. Weyer, associated with Highway Express, film delivery service, succeeds Frank L. McNamee.

Other officers for 1945 are: Ted Schlanger, first assistant chief barker; David Supowitz, second assistant; Jack Greenberg, dough guy; Alfred J. Davis, property master; Michael Felt, house chairman; Harry N. Ball, fixer; Ben Amsterdam, Jack Beresin, Harry Blumberg, James R. Clark, William J. Clark, Jay Emanuel, Felt, McNamee, Sam Gross, Dr. Leon Levy, Edgar Moss and Earle W. Sweigert, canvassmen.

RKO Heads Honor Meakin January 15

(Continued from page 1)

lard Hotel, under sponsorship of the Washington Variety Club.

Among the executives scheduled to attend are: Ned Depinet, S. A. Schwartz, Robert Mochrie, Arthur Frudenfeld, Terry Turner, O. R. McMahon, J. M. Brennan and Malcolm Kingsberg, all of RKO, and Maurice White, Variety Club of Cincinnati chief barker.

Speakers will include Depinet, John S. Allen, for the exchanges; Carter T. Barron, for circuit and independent exhibitors; Ted Gamble, for Government, and Commissioner John Russell Young for the District of Columbia. Meakin had been manager of RKO's Keith Theatre in Washington for 15 years.

SPG Votes Tomorrow

The Screen Publicists Guild of New York will ballot for new officers at SPG headquarters here tomorrow night.

Harry Hochfield is unopposed for the presidency.

U.S. Looks for 15% Drop in Amusements in 1945-46

(Continued from page 1)

than from roof gardens and cabarets, will amount to $292,900,000 for the current fiscal year (1944-45) and drop to $257,700,000 in 1945-46, while receipts from roof gardens and cabarets will amount to $54,700,000 this year and $46,500,000 in the year to come.

The budget calls for a total Government expenditure of $87,000,000,000 in 1945-46, $70,000,000,000 of which will be for war purposes. This will be $10,000,000,000 less than the current budget, but individual and corporation tax payments next year are expected to decline more than $4,000,000,000, and the national debt on June 30, 1946, will be $292,000,000,000.

Service on the national debt, expenditures for veterans and tax refunds in 1945-46 call for more than $7,000,000,000, exceeding the entire cost of Government operations five years ago, Roosevelt said.

Roosevelt firmly opposed tax reductions at present, but told Congress that when the favorable development of the war allows a major decline in war expenditures, minor tax adjustments will become possible and desirable.

Seeks Overhauled System

At the same time, he urged Congress now to overhaul the tax system and develop a tax program which can be put into effect immediately after the war, to stimulate consumer demand and promote business investment.

The President also called attention to the need to make sure that there are opportunities for new and growing business after the war, reminding Congress that the national and international policies which we adopt now —affecting trade, credit, investment, and competition and monopoly—will largely determine future business and employment opportunities.

Other points in the budget of interest to the film industry were: the Treasury will derive a revenue of $135,000 from the sale of Government films, from which it secured $31,872 in 1944, and expects to receive $75,000 this year.

Detailed estimates for the Army, Navy and war agencies—including the War Production Board, Office of War Information, Office of Censorship, etc.—will be submitted to Congress next Spring, when they will reflect any changes which may occur in the war picture.

The Library of Congress will initiate preliminary investigations and prepare plans for the recording, storing and servicing of motion pictures and still photographs, for which plans for a permanent repository are in the making. An appropriation of $21,000 is recommended, permitting the setting up of a staff, consisting of a chief of the project, at $6,500 a year; two technicians, at $3,800, and two clerks, at $1,800.

The defense activities of the Federal Communications Commission will be further contracted, the appropriation being cut from $4,191,143 to $2,430,000, but in anticipation of increased responsibilties with respect to regulation of civilian communications its regular fund is to be increased from $2,104,500 to $2,756,000.

D. of J. Gets More

The appropriation for the anti-trust division of the Department of Justice is to be increased from $1,540,000 to $1,750,000, providing for an increase of ten employes in Washington and 60 in the field.

The motion picture work of the Office of Education, in connection with aids for war training, is to be liquidated, but its regular motion picture activities will be continued under an expanded civilian program for which the agency is to get $1,351,700, compared with $838,118 this year.

The usual fund of $50,000 is provided for the informational work of the Department of Agriculture.

The end of the war will bring additional responsibilities upon the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, it was said, including the motion picture unit, and its appropriation is to be increased from $1,550,000 to $2,000,000.

The State Department is to be given $25,700, the same as this year, for its educational motion picture program, and for its cooperation with the American republics, including the provision of motion pictures, etc., it is to receive $4,430,000, compared with $3,450,000 this year.

Legion Classifies 10 New Productions

The Legion of Decency has classified the following new films: Class A-1, "The Fighting Lady," (documentary), 20th Century-Fox; "Marked for Murder," PRC; "Hitchhike to Happiness," Republic. A-2, "The Big Showoff," "Grissly's Millions," Republic; "Double Exposure," "Practically Yours," Paramount; "The Suspect," Universal; "Tahiti Nights," Columbia. Class B, "Roughly Speaking," Warners.

Check on Delinquency

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 9. — The November session of the grand jury here has concluded an investigation of juvenile delinquency and has recommended legislation to prohibit the admittance of children 17 or under to theatres between the hours of 10:30 P.M. and 10 A.M.

Arch B. Heath Dies, Was Film Director

Arch B. Heath, 54, artist, motion picture director and writer, recently with the OWI, died here Saturday.

He had been a director of screen serials for Pathe and a producer of training films for the Army. He was born in Brooklyn.

Daniel Stearns Dies

CLEVELAND, Jan. 9. — Funeral services will be held here Wednesday for Daniel C. Stearns, Jr., 55, who died yesterday following a heart attack. Connected with the industry hereabouts for 30 years, Stearns had been owner of the Willoughby Theatre, Willoughby, for 16 years. His early years in the business were with Universal where he was a booker, then salesman. Surviving are his widow, Margaret, a daughter, Georgiana Albright, and a son, Daniel, III.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Jan. 9

BILL WILLIAMS has been signed by RKO Radio for a featured role in "Those Endearing Young Charms," which will co-star Robert Young and Laraine Day. Lewis Allen is to direct the feature, Bert Granet will produce it. . . . Joan Loring has been assigned an important part in the Warner production, "Three Strangers," which Jean Negulesco will direct and Wolfgang Reinhardt will produce for Warners. . . . Columbia has exercised its option on the services of Jimmy Lloyd, former radio actor.

•

Billy Daniels, Paramount dance director, will have an acting role in "Masquerade in Mexico," which co-stars Dorothy Lamour and Arturo de Cordova. . . . 20th Century-Fox has renewed Phil Silvers' contract, and assigned him a role in "Two-Faced Quilligan." . . . Lew Landers has been signed by PRC to direct the Jack Schwarz production, "Enchanted Forest."

•

Marek Lubkov will be co-producer with Steve Sekely of Republic's "The Healer." . . . Edward Ryan has been assigned the romantic lead in "Caribbean Mystery" at 20th Century-Fox. . . . "Butterfly" McQuean, former comedienne on the Jack Benny airshow, has been signed for a role in the current Warner production, "Mildred Pierce." . . . Dorothy Kingsley has been assigned to write the screenplay of "The Girl from Rector's," which Jack Cummings will produce for M-G-M.

•

First of the new year's independent set-ups has been formed by J. C. Copeland, Canadian entertainment tycoon, whose Copeland Productions will turn out three features a year. No releasing arrangements have been announced as yet. . . . Columbia has purchased an original from James Edward Grant, and signed him to write the screenplay, and produce the picture as well. The title will be "A Mother for May."

•

Spring Byington has been signed by 20th Century-Fox for a featured role in "Captain Eddie." . . . Gene Lewis will produce "White Tie and Tails" for Universal.

Clearance, Some Run Complaint Is Filed

G. Carey, operating the Stadium Theatre, Caruthersville, Mo., has filed a combination some run and clearance complaint against the five consenting companies in the St. Louis tribunal, the American Arbitration Association reports.

Complainant charges that clearance between the Rogers and Gem Theatres, also at Caruthersville, and the Stadium, is unreasonable and unduly long, that these two theatres hold up product an unreasonable time after territorial release dates. He also alleged that Loew's has refused to license pictures to the Stadium.

In his petition, claimant asks that he be given a reasonable maximum clearance and that Loew's be directed to supply pictures for some run.

SEE!

—Captured Japanese film shows our ships and planes in vivid action!

Actual scenes of Jap fleet disaster!

Fascinating maps show brilliant Yank strategy that upset Nip maneuvers!

Breath-taking suspense as exciting as any action drama!

Your patrons will cheer our heroic American sailors in a fight that made history!

Combat film by the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Army Pictorial Service, Army Air Forces and captured Japanese film.

THE FIRST COMPLETE STORY OF PHILIPPINE NAVAL VICTORY!

A gratis short that will hold audiences spellbound!

"BROUGHT TO ACTION"

The industry salutes the Navy with this thrilling film record of America's greatest sea-air victory. It's a picture your audiences will *thank* you for putting on your screen, not only because it's great entertainment but because it packs a terrific patriotic heart-thrill.

Produced by the Office of Strategic Services in cooperation with the United States Navy.
Distributed by United Artists (M-G-M, in Albany, Des Moines, Memphis, Oklahoma City and Portland, Ore.)

★ ★ ★ SPONSORED BY WAR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE OF MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY, 1501 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY ★ ★ ★

Another

FIRST

For

David O. Selznick's first production since "Gone With The Wind" and "Rebecca"

Since You Went Away

David O. Selznick's

"Since You Went Away"

starring

CLAUDETTE COLBERT · JENNIFER JONES · JOSEPH COTTEN · SHIRLEY TEMPLE · MONTY WOOLLEY
LIONEL BARRYMORE · ROBERT WALKER

Directed by John Cromwell

Released thru United Artists

THE 10 BEST PICTURES OF 1944

...as selected by the Young Reviewers (ranging in age from 8 to 18 years) of the NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW

1. Since You Went Away

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 8 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1945 | TEN CENTS

Warners Nets $6,953,462, $1.87 a Share

$1,285,021 Drop Is Due To Heavy Write-Offs

Warner Bros.' operations resulted in a net profit of $6,953,462 for the fiscal year ended August 31, 1944, a decrease of $1,285,021 from the $8,238,483 net of the previous year, according to an annual stockholders' report prepared for release today by Harry M. Warner, president.

Harry M. Warner

The decrease took place despite the fact that gross income rose $9,357,499 —from $131,825,540 in 1943 to $141,183,039 in 1944. The largest portion of this increase, War-

(Continued on page 7)

Youngman Named to Decree Committee

Gordon E. Youngman, vice-president and general counsel for RKO, has been named by the five consenting companies as their representative on the budget committee which votes the appropriations to cover the operating costs of the motion picture arbitration tribunals.

Youngman replaces Joseph Hazen, whose resignation from Warners last Summer left the post vacant. Other

(Continued on page 6)

Republic Chicago Meet Opens Today

CHICAGO, Jan. 10.—James R. Grainger, president and general sales manager of Republic Pictures, will open the first day's session of the second in the company's current series of sales conferences here tomorrow, at the Blackstone Hotel, where field men and home office executives will review the company's distribution and production progress and confer on

(Continued on page 6)

Fitzgerald Calls For Exposition For All Exhibition

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 10.—An annual exposition by exhibitors, for exhibition, to be held annually in the post-war, over a period of at least five years, is proposed by Harold J. Fitzgerald, president of Fox Wisconsin Amusement Corp., with all branches of the industry participating.

Fitzgerald makes the proposal as national chairman of the 50th Anniversary of the Motion Picture, and offers it in lieu of a 1945 celebration of the progress of motion pictures as originally contemplated.

The starter would be an 'international exhibition,' to be held in an ac-

(Continued on page 7)

Pollock Resignation From U.A. Accepted

Lou Pollock, advertising and publicity director of United Artists, will leave the company tomorrow, his resignation, which was submitted last week, having been accepted yesterday by Gradwell L. Sears, vice-president in charge of distribution.

A successor to Pollock is understood to have been chosen and is expected to be announced today or tomorrow. Pollock, former Eastern advertising-publicity manager of Universal, was appointed to the United Artists post in October, 1943, after Paul Lazarus, Jr., entered military service.

Fuel Shortage Will Close Theatres

Buffalo, Jan. 10.—Film theatres here will be forced to close before the end of the month due to an acute fuel shortage, E. Harold Brayer, chairman of Mayor Joseph Kelly's emergency fuel committee, warns. Soft coal shipments are behind schedule as a result of snowstorms which have crippled rail traffic.

Study Dimout Of Marquees

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—The Government is understood to be considering a nationwide dimout that would darken every theatre marquee and shop window in the country, as a means of saving more than 2,000,000 tons of coal in 12 months.

The emergency measure, it is said, was demanded by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes at a recent Cabinet meeting, and was approved immediately by Secretary of the Navy James Forrestall and Secretary of War Henry Stimson. Coal is used to generate about two-thirds of the nation's output of electric power, it was pointed out.

Although Government officials were reluctant to issue such a mandatory curtailment order a year ago, it is now felt that such action is warranted in view of the critical coal situation.

Government officials are also dis-

(Continued on page 6)

Networks Will Not Curb Use of Television Shows

Exhibitors using television programs in their theatres in the post war will be able to screen video shows sent out by television broadcasters if they are willing to adopt a spirit of fair play in using the telecasts, John F. Royal, NBC vice-president in charge of television, indicated in an interview with MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

The broadcasters are making an exhaustive study of the legal aspects of telecasting as they affect exhibitors' picking up programs and using them in theatres, Royal disclosed. He said he could see no opposition developing if exhibitors did not delete advertising and network credits in carrying special events telecasted.

Royal doubts whether there will be sufficient special features like prize fights and outstanding horse races to permit a theatre to carry them exclusively. He believes that rights to telecast these events will probably be shared by all telecasters.

Ralph B. Austrian, executive vice-president of RKO Television Corp., has suggested that groups of theatres might be able to contract for exclusive rights to certain sport events and make telecasts of these events available solely to theatres rather than to owners of home television sets in the post war. This spirit of competition would not hurt either the telecasters or the theatres, Royal indicated.

Theatres' unauthorized use of television programs would be beset by litigation, Royal warned.

Severe WMC Rules Hit Film, Other Fields

Omaha 1st to Apply New Hiring Curtailment

OMAHA, Jan. 10.—Area War Manpower director William Parkinson has issued two orders, the most drastic here to date, which can seriously affect the motion picture industry here.

The first, effective now, places a 10-day "embargo" on the hiring of all male employes, except by a selected group of 27 war plants and high-priority firms behind on war production schedules.

The second cuts back employment ceilings from 100 per cent of June figures to 90 per cent. No firm in the non-essential class, which includes the theatre industry, may hire any person until the establishment's employment total drops below the 90 mark.

Parkinson asserts that if these measures do not produce the needed men, "loans" of manpower may be

(Continued on page 6)

File Schine Briefs, Replies Due Feb. 1

BUFFALO, Jan. 10.—A decision for another month at least, cannot be expected in the Government anti-trust suit against the Schine Circuit here, as briefs on both sides have just been submitted to Judge John Knight. Counter briefs are scheduled to be given the court by Feb. 1, and a decision should be forthcoming during the month.

Briefs consisted of summary of the

(Continued on page 6)

CEA to Protest on Raising UK Quota

LONDON, Jan. 10.—The general council of the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association has decided to protest to the British Board of Trade against its recommendation of a five per cent increase in the exhibitors' quota between now and 1947. This step will be taken in support of a viewpoint expressed by CEA's Scottish branch.

The branch had condemned quota

(Continued on page 6)

Personal Mention

JOSEPH H. MOSKOWITZ, vice president and Eastern studio representative of 20th Century-Fox, left New York last night for the company's West Coast studios.

•

JEANNE DOOLEY, formerly with Comerford Theatres in Scranton, is engaged to CPL. ROBERT KILCULLEN, who was a Comerford booker before entering the Army Air Forces.

•

Y. FRANK FREEMAN, Paramount vice-president and studio head, is back in New York after a visit with his son in Boston. FREEMAN is scheduled to leave for the Coast at the weekend.

•

A. J. O'KEEFE, Universal's Western division sales manager, will leave today for Chicago, Milwaukee and the West Coast.

•

A. A. WARD, vice president and general manager of Altec Lansing Corp., has arrived in New York from Hollywood.

•

LESTER COWAN is scheduled to leave for the Coast at the weekend.

Randel New Head Of Board of Trade

Henry Randel, Paramount New York branch manager, was installed as president of the New York Film Board of Trade last evening at the home of Louis Nizer, attorney and executive secretary of the board. Nizer and Mrs. Nizer were hosts to 20 guests at a dinner preceeding the meeting, which included film executives and former board of trade members.

Other new officers are: First vice-president, Clarence Eiseman, Warners; second vice-president, Joseph J. Felder, Monogram; treasurer, David Levy, Universal; secretary, Robert J. Fannon, Republic; sergeant-at-arms, Ralph Pielow, M-G-M. Outgoing officers include: Pielow, president; Eiseman, first vice-president; Jack Ellis, United Artists, second vice-president; Ray Moon, 20th-Fox, treasurer; Fannon, secretary; Felder, sergeant-at-arms.

Among those present were Louis Rosenbluh, Mrs. Louis Phillips, Charles Boasberg, Herman Gluckman, Saul Trauner, Ben Abner, Pete Lewis and Henry Danziger.

Mono. Screens 'Faith'

Monogram yesterday screened "They Shall Have Faith," which stresses infantile paralysis, for the press and other guests at the Normandie Theatre here, followed by a luncheon at the Warwick Hotel.

Pictorial Host Today

Pictorial Films will hold a reception today at the St. Moritz Hotel to observe its new association with Pathe Industries, Inc. Pictorial distributes eight and 16 mm films.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, Jan. 10

MAJORITY opinion among studio responsibles is that ways and means of meeting the situation thrown on the table by impending reductions in raw stock will be determined largely by New York. The exact degree of the slash for the first quarter of 1945 thus far lacks finality. The method of allocation continues uncertain, but no one here doubts that a cut is on the way.

How seriously the production pattern will be disturbed is not wholly apparent as early as this.

Naturally, executives are analyzing the nature and extent of the impact which, in the first-flush view of many, rolls into one conclusion: Fewer pictures.

■

An enforced dropping of films already scheduled would not be new. Reported here from time to time has been execution by sweeps of the pen of occasional "B" attractions, short subjects and serials for the obvious purpose of keeping the road clear for projects more essential in scope. There may be more of this in the future, and it could be a good thing. Industry-wise, no one will regret fewer low-budget features.

Where the big-to-bigger ones enter, no concern need bother anyone's peace of mind. It is a definite part of Hollywood's thinking these days to keep the percentage of important films high. Therefore, if numerical sacrifices prove in order, the top of the heap will escape unharmed.

■

The problem, of course, is fractional where production is involved. While millions of feet of film are consumed in turning out any year's total output, those millions fade into a fine shade of obscurity alongside the many more millions required for release prints.

This is why, in full justice from Hollywood's viewpoint, the major phases of the situation automatically are returned to New York which possesses all the keys to distribution. This is why, too, there is some talk in these parts about the possibility of a further re-examination of the long-entrenched selling system to determine whether fewer prints are in the cards or whether a staggered plan of release—based on geography—can be worked out, in whole or in part, for the nation.

Discussions of this ilk are not advanced in the guise of any cure-all. No one here, so far as this telescope ranges, intends barging into a determination which rests so largely with distribution and distribution's responsibilities to exhibition.

Theatres have to be kept going, of course, but production feels it has to be kept going as well. If the state of affairs is reached at which total output has to be shaved to a point where theatres beyond the first runs cannot change as often as they now do or where not enough film is available to maintain current levels in double feature policies, exhibition will be compelled to make required adjustments.

■

However, it is highly dubious if production will be affected seriously. The raw stock to *make* pictures will be available. The raw stock to *make* release prints is something entirely different. With their fixed overhead—executive salaries, player and talent salaries and staffs—a substantial percentage of costs runs on, in most cases, whether cameras are grinding or not.

Commitments for outside personalities, many of whom know today how their working time will be apportioned for the next year or more, have to be picked up or paid off.

■

Consequently, production may be expected to continue on, or about, its established level. All studios, practically without exception, are now accustomed to a fancy column of inventories which today aggregate about $200,000,000 or more.

It is the fact, naturally, that producers cannot pile up investments without benefit of return, but those thousands of active theatres around the country continue to pick up their playdates. And playdates, as of yore, continue to mean money on the line.

■

Nevertheless, production can help the general situation by influencing and educating its creators to the increasing need for economies in raw stock consumption. On any number of shooting schedules this has been done successfully and quality has not suffered one whit thereby.

Much more than meeting an emergency is at stake, additionally. One of the essentials continues to be the need, for many reasons, to reduce running times. Theatre operators want shorter attractions. Unflinchingly, they are death on the babies in the two hour, or more, division. When the producer holds down the artistes-for-art's sake, he serves his customer, the exhibitor, better and makes it possible for the theatreman to serve his customer, the public, in commensurate terms.

■

But, if and when he holds down on length, the producer does himself yeoman's service by making his raw stock problem easier to meet. An attraction in 100 minutes, as against 140, means 40 minutes times 90 feet per minute by approximately 300 prints. That works out as 1,080,000 feet on one film.

Finally, if he holds down on length from the start and governs his shooting script accordingly, the producer does more than save precious film. He saves many thousands of precious dollars. He moves in the very essential direction of keeping his costs from spiralling forever upward into the stratosphere.

Offer 100,000 Monogram Shares

Emanuel and Co. yesterday offered 100,000 shares of five-and-one-half per cent cumulative convertible preferred stock of Monogram Pictures Corp. Stock is priced for the public at $10 a share, plus accrued dividends.

Net proceeds of approximately $851,340 will be used for addition working capital, while approximately $300,000 will be applied to the reduction of current liabilities, and the remainder to film production. Outstanding capitalization, outside of this issue, is 493,439 shares of common at $1 par.

The new preferred is convertible into common at two-and-a-quarter shares of common for each of preferred.

Tom Connors Talking Product with FPT

TORONTO, Jan. 10.—Tom Connors, vice-president in charge of sales for Twentieth Century-Fox, accompanied by W. C. Gehring, the company's Western sales manager, are here for a meeting with John Fitzgibbon, president of Famous Players Theatres, to discuss the company's pictures which will play the circuit during the coming months.

Connors and Gehring will also talk with Sydney Samson, manager of Twentieth-Fox's five Canadian offices, and will visit Montreal before returning to New York.

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17th of a series, this national magazine advertisement introduces a new star and a new picture, together with a veteran star and a veteran policy. For in addition to stars, story, stagecraft and so forth, that policy — of combining good picture-making with good citizenship — is a vital ingredient of Warner Bros. productions.

This is a scene from Warner Bros.' newest feature picture: TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT, from the novel by Hemingway.

It shows famed screenstar Humphrey Bogart with a girl named Lauren Bacall.

We believe that, with the release of this enormously dramatic film, Lauren Bacall becomes one of the most exciting discoveries in the history of motion pictures.

•

Commenting on Miss Bacall's sensational debut, Jack L. Warner remarked: "Major credit for the discovery of this new star belongs to Producer Howard Hawks, and is in the best tradition of our Company.

"For Warner Bros., since its founding, has made many important discoveries — among them, that motion pictures may be adult, intelligent and mindful of social realities, and still be magnificent entertainment!"

•

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT (which takes up entertainment-wise where 'Casablanca' left off!) serves booming notice that *"combining good picture-making with good citizenship"* is a *permanent* Warner policy.

HUMPHREY BOGART

in Ernest Hemingway's

"TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT"

WALTER BRENNAN • LAUREN BACALL
DOLORES MORAN • HOAGY CARMICHAEL

A HOWARD HAWKS PRODUCTION

Screen Play by Jules Furthman & William Faulkner

WARNER BROS.
JACK L. WARNER, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

SIGN THAT PLEDGE FOR MARCH OF DIMES!

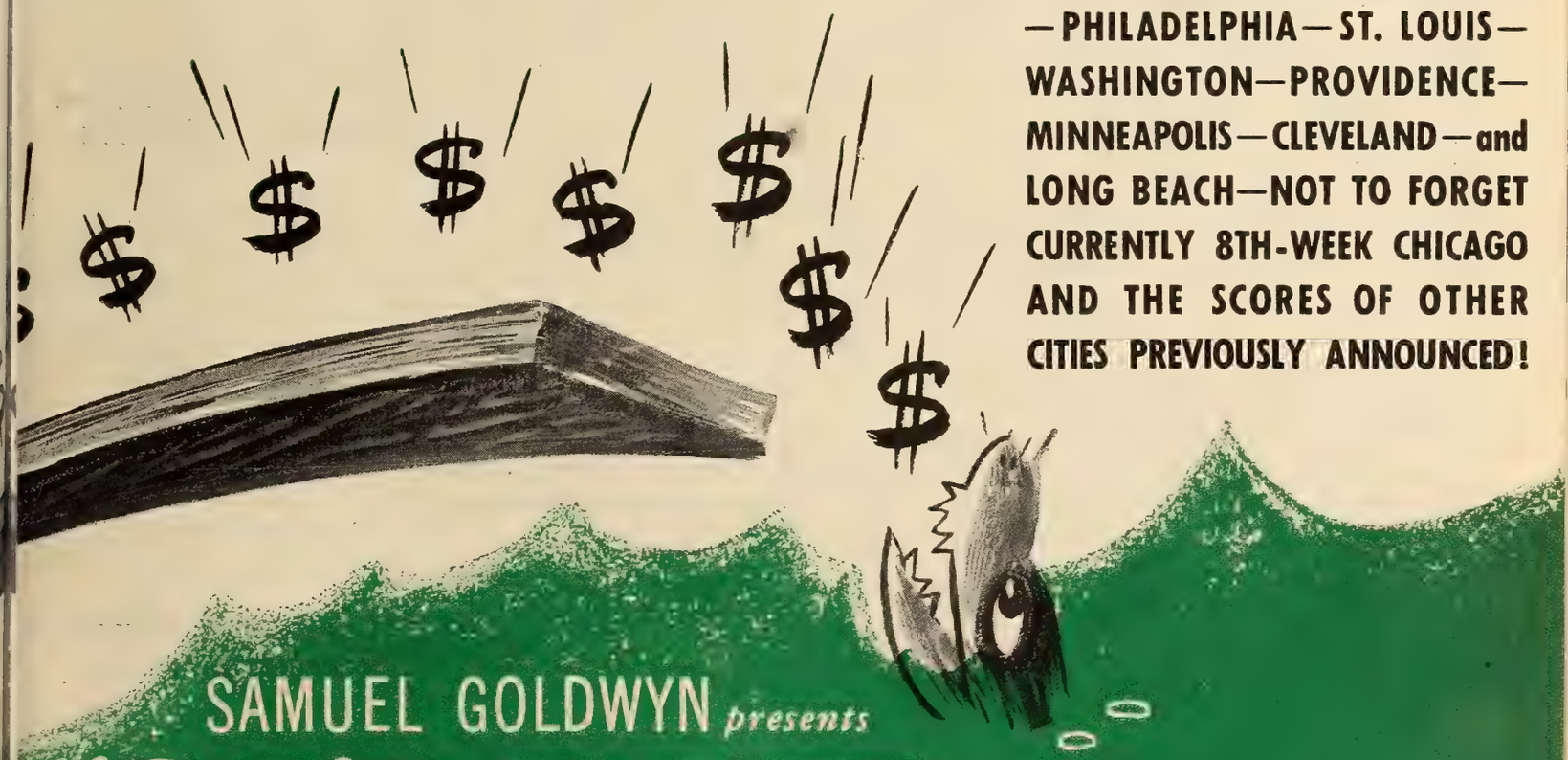
SIGN THAT PLEDGE! MARCH OF DIMES! (JAN. 25-31)

ECH THE RECORDS

Walk the plank!

IT'S OVERBOARD FOR...

BOSTON—BALTIMORE—RICHMOND —PHILADELPHIA—ST. LOUIS—WASHINGTON—PROVIDENCE—MINNEAPOLIS—CLEVELAND—and LONG BEACH—NOT TO FORGET CURRENTLY 8TH-WEEK CHICAGO AND THE SCORES OF OTHER CITIES PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED!



SAMUEL GOLDWYN *presents*

BOB HOPE

in

Princess and the Pirate

in TECHNICOLOR

with VIRGINIA MAYO

EZAK · WALTER BRENNAN · VICTOR McLAGLEN

Directed by David Butler
Associate Producer · Dan Hartman

Screen Play by Don Hartman, Melville Shavelson and Everett Freeman · Released through RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.

Severe WMC Rules Hit Film, Other Fields

(Continued from page 1)

forced from non-essential establishments.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—Strict labor controls imposed in Omaha by area War Manpower director William Parkinson, under which theatres and other establishments not on the essential list are required to reduce employment in order that labor may be channeled into war plants, reflect a purely local situation, War Manpower Commission officials here said tonight.

They explained that Parkinson's orders were undoubtedly approved by the regional WMC director and are designed to meet the labor needs of war plants faced with heavy new demands resulting from recent developments in the European Theatre.

Have the Authority

Regional directors, it was said, have authority, within the broad pattern of the national regulation, to take such steps as may be necessary to meet local conditions. There were no reports of similar action in other areas, but WMC officials said some such orders might well be issued in other war centers where conditions are similar to those in Omaha. Such action may be taken by regional officials without reference to Washington, and the RWMC directors are encouraged to use their own judgment as to what is required in their jurisdictions.

"The situation is rather tense, and we may reasonably expect local action of this nature, but it is not part of any broad national movement," a WMC spokesman explained.

The spokesman pointed out that there are still areas where there is a surplus of labor, and adoption nationally of restrictions such as applied in Omaha would serve only to increase that surplus. On the other hand, some of the important war centers are finding it difficult to recruit sufficient labor for important war and essential civilian activities, and officials in such areas are responsible for seeing that war production does not fail for lack of workers.

U. S. May Darken Theatre Marquees

(Continued from page 1)

cussing the possibility of banning nonessential air conditioning and outdoor floodlighting for amusements or sports in addition to the illumination of billboards.

Nova Scotia Lights Up With Difficulty

HALIFAX, N. S., Jan. 10.—Nova Scotia theatre men are finding it difficult to restore electric signs to theatre fronts since much of the equipment was damaged in storage and reconditioning is hampered by the scarcity of parts and manpower. This province is the last to lift the outdoor lighting ban.

Several houses have returned signs with missing letters and parts to marquees. Theatre exteriors here have been dark for more than five years.

More Theatres to Aid 'Dimes' Drive

More theatres in six more states will partcipate in the 1945 March of Dimes drive than participated in the drive last year, according to reports received here from Elmer Nolte and Lawrence Schanberger, Maryland; Rovy Brannon and Roy Howe, North Carolina; E. O. Griffith, Oklahoma; Robert O'Donnell and Karl Hoblitzelle, Texas; John Rugar, Utah, and A. H. Blank, Iowa.

Additional circuit pledges received at national headquarters here include Pioneer Theatres, St. Louis and Wometco, Miami. The 'citation' one-sheet posters are now in all National Screen exchanges and mailing to theatres with regular poster shipments is under way.

"The Tub Thumpers of America," a group of press representatives in the film and allied industries, will support the drive in the Boston area.

First Two Pledges For Red Cross Drive

Harry Brandt, president of Brandt Theatres, operating 123 houses in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and Mrs. J. J. Parker, operating seven theatres in the Portland, Oregon area, are the first exhibitors to pledge support to the industry's Red Cross War Fund Week next March, it was announced here yesterday by N. Peter Rathvon, industry national chairman.

57% in 1,077 Cities Hear NBC at Night

Some 1,077 cities of more than 10,000 population, report 57 per cent of their radio 'families' listen mostly to National Broadcasting network stations after six p.m. local time, giving the stations a lead of 128 per cent over closest network competitors, according to NBC.

The report was made at a luncheon-meeting at the Ritz-Carlton here yesterday at which Niles Trammell, NBC president; Roy C. Witmer, vice-president in charge of sales; Charles P. Hammond, director of advertising and promotion and James H. Nelson, network sales promotion manager were speakers. Attending the session were executives of advertising agencies, program sponsors, representatives of the press, NBC's management committee and NBC's station-planning and advisory committee.

File Schine Briefs, Replies Due Feb. 1

(Continued from page 1)

evidence submitted, with the Department of Justice contending that it had shown evidence that Schine acquired and used illegal monopoly methods in six states with the ultimate purpose of eliminating independent competitors. Schine, however, contends that the evidence presented proved that it had not monopolized, and had not attempted to, or conspired with any distributor to restrain trade.

Pvt. Burke Killed

SCRANTON, Pa., Jan. 10.—Pvt. Anthony Burke, former manager of the Rex, Dickson City, was killed in action in Germany on Dec. 5.

Honor Cauger, Who Started Animators

Hollywood, Jan. 10.—Screen animators this week feted A. V. Cauger, Independence, Mo., who started them more than two decades ago, in Kansas City.

Cauger, visiting here, was honored at a dinner which the following Cauger graduates attended: Walt Disney, J. B. Hardaway, Dick Clinton, Isadore Freleng, Max Ising, Fred Harmon, Henry Millar, Jack Miller, 'Butch' Davis, Henry Byers, James Craig, Ub Iwerks, Art Goebel, Hal McAlpin, George Miller, Jimmy Lowerre, John Connolly, and Mrs. Dick Clinton who had been secretary to Cauger when most of the 18 worked for him.

FTC Reports 19,500 Radio Ads 'Quizzed'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—Only 19,500 of more than 627,000 radio commercials examined during the year ended June 30, last, required review as containing possibly false or misleading representations, the Federal Trade Commission told Congress tonight.

Of the cases thus developed, the Commission disclosed in its annual report, a large majority were adjusted by the procedure under which an advertiser is extended the privilege of entering into a stipulation to cease and desist from the false or misleading advertising practices involved.

The report showed that broadcasting is doing a much better job of keeping its advertising clean than are newspapers, magazines and other periodicals, in which the Commission questioned 22,350 of 308,000 advertisements scanned.

Refuse Krim Theatre Clearance Change

Paul W. Voorhies, arbitrator in the Detroit tribunal, has dismissed the clearance complaint originally filed by Sol Krim, operating the Krim Theatre, Highland Park, Mich., against the five consenting companies, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

Complainant asked that that seven day clearance on product from Paramount, Loew's, RKO and Warners, after the Palmer Park Theatre, be eliminated and a provision reading "21 days after availability dates of key run theatres" be substituted; and also that seven day clearance on Warner product, after the Highland Park and Woodward Grand theatres be eliminated

Palmer Park Theatre Co., operating the Palmer Park, and Highland Park Theatre Co., operating the Highland Park, were intervenors.

Columbia Play Offices

Columbia has opened separate offices here for its recently-formed play department, under John Gassner, formerly of the Theatre Guild. Department will 'cover' all plays in production or contemplated, for possible Columbia investment.

Republic Chicago Meet Opens Today

(Continued from page 1)

line-up for 1945-46. Meetings are scheduled to continue Friday and Saturday.

The Chicago session follows the New York meeting, which closed at the New York Athletic Club, with a tribute by Grainger to the sales staff.

H. J. Yates, Sr., will make the opening address at the meeting here, which is being attended by William Saal, E. L. Walton, the company's six district sales managers—Maxwell Gillis, Sam Seplowin, Jack Davis, Will Baker, Merritt Davis, and Francis Bateman; also, by Walter L. Titus, Jr., Albert Schiller, Si Borus, E. H. Seifert, and Steve Edwards.

Sales personnel present will include: branch managers Winfield Snelson, Harold Laird, J. H. Dillon, L. V. Seicshnaydre, Lew T. Andres, N. J. Colquhoun, Glen Alt, William Feld, J. G. Frackman, W. M. Grant, Harry Lefholtz, Nat E. Steinberg and franchise holder Robert F. Withers, of Kansas City.

Special representatives J. V. Scully, G. D. Milford, and John A. Alexander are also attending.

CEA to Protest on Raising UK Quota

(Continued from page 1)

legislation altogether, maintaining that "a law enforcing showing of unacceptable British films is harmful to the British industry." The council, however, will refrain from taking this extreme position.

As reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Dec. 13, BOT's recommendations call for the present 15 per cent exhibitors' feature quota to rise to 17½ per cent next year and 20 per cent in 1947. A similar increase in the distributors' quota is sought, and the upward revision on short subjects would be even sharper. Resolutions placing the new quotas in effect require passage by both houses of Parliament and would become effective in April.

Youngman Named to Decree Committee

(Continued from page 1)

representatives of the committee are George Alger, for the appeal board, and Wesley Sturges, for the American Arbitration Association.

Costs of operation of the tribunals are estimated to be some $300,000 yearly, about $25,000 a month.

Exhibitor Sowar Dies

MUNCIE, Ind., Jan. 10.—Leonard B. Sowar, 49, manager of Theatrical Managers here and owner of the Strand and Uptown theatres, died recently after a short illness.

R. D. Chapin Dies

LYONS, Neb., Jan. 10.—R. D. Chapin, 52, owner of the Plaza Theatre here, died recently following a heart attack. He had been in the theatre business more than 25 years.

Depinet Cites 1,500 Who Aided the WAC

Ned E. Depinet said here yesterday he regrets that pressure of duties as president of RKO Radio forced him to relinquish the chairmanship of the distributors' division of the War Activities Committee.

"Every non-combatant who cannot get into the service down in his heart wants to do something to be helpful," Depinet said. "That is why I feel a great personal satisfaction in having served in this capacity. We in the motion picture industry are very fortunate and privileged to have the opportunity to cooperate with our Government."

He said that 1,500 managers, salesmen and district managers in the 31 exchange centers who have been actively engaged in the work of the distributors' division deserve a vote of thanks for their efforts. Speaking of the part the industry must play in the post-war, Depinet said: "A continuation of this work is very important. Through the WAC, all factions have worked in complete harmony. It is my hope that with the coming of the peace the harmony will continue."

Mayor Lauds Depinet For War Activities

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 10.—Mayor Earl S. Riley of this city, and S. Palmer Hoyt, publisher of the *Portland Oregonian*, today lauded Ned E. Depinet, RKO Radio president, for his war work. Occasion was the visit of Robert Folliard and Harry Gittleson of RKO, on their countrywide tour in connection with the Depinet sales drive.

Present at the meeting, held at RKO's exchange, were: J. H. MacIntyre, Western division manager; M. E. Cory, Portland branch manager; E. A. Lamb, Seattle manager; Reg. Doddridge, Calgary, and W. S. Jones, Vancouver, as well as sales staffs and bookers from those territories. On Friday, Folliard and Gittleson will confer in Los Angeles with managers from Louisiana, San Francisco, Denver and Salt Lake City.

Bob Paskow to WB Home Office Staff

Bob Paskow, for 10 years director of advertising-publicity for Warner Theatres in the New Jersey zone, has joined Warner home office films advertising-publicity staff under Mort Blumenstock to handle commercial tieup activities.

Paskow has been with the company since 1926 in both exhibition and distribution and once served as district manager for New Jersey. He will work with Larry Golob, Eastern publicity manager.

$2,000 Ohio Fire

HAMILTON, Ohio, Jan. 10.—Fire resulting from an ignition breakage in the projection booth caused $2,000 worth of damage at the Strand Theatre, Marysville, today. The house will be closed indefinitely.

Borrodaile to Australia

Osmond Borrodaile, Ealing Studio cameraman is in New York, enroute to Australia, to work with Harry Watt in connection with a film Ealing is making there. He will leave for the Coast within two weeks.

Warners Nets $6,953,462, Equal to $1.87 on Common

(*Continued from page* 1)

ner explained, is represented by receipts from "This Is the Army," the net from which was turned over to Army Emergency Relief.

Also, he pointed out, large sums were spent in the maintenance and improvement of physical assets. Moreover, losses sustained from the sale of fixed assets amounted to $5,193,455 and will result in the lowering of Federal income tax payable by $4,230,000, Warner added. Fixed asset sale losses amounted to $4,537,222 in 1943.

The 1944 net was equal to $1.87 per share on the common stock outstanding, a decrease of 25 cents from the $2.12 earned in 1943. Provision for Federal income taxes amounted to $13,135,000, compared with $13,890,000 the year before, a decrease of $755,000.

Refinancing Completed

The refinancing program of the previous fiscal year was completed by the issuance on Sept. 1, 1943, of the remaining $6,000,000 principal amount of four per cent debentures. Subsequently, notes payable and other funded debt were reduced by $8,839,649, of which $2,904,000 represented mortgages paid off in connection with the sale of fixed assets, the statement said.

During the year, Warner reported, the company purchased five theatres, including four formerly under lease to it, at a cost of $1,335,030. A theatre site in Cairo, Egypt, and a film exchange site in Toronto were also acquired, at an aggregate cost of $215,953. Also acquired was the "Merrie Melodies" and "Looney Tunes" cartoon unit, at a cost of $700,000.

Inventories were $8,966,241 greater last Aug. 31 than at the close of the preceding fiscal year, reflecting Warners' policy of building inventories to be marketed at the most advantageous time.

With regard to the future, Warner reported to the stockholders that the management will continue its policy of applying all available funds in the reduction of funded indebtedness, in order to place the company in a position to meet the uncertainties of the future. Also, he reported, the board of directors has appointed a committee to consider the possible elimination of the 'goodwill' item from the consolidated balance sheet, as suggested by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Most of the "goodwill,' now standing at $8,933,781, arose prior to 1930 as a result of the acquisition of Vitagraph Corp., First National Pictures, Inc., and M. Witmark and Sons.

Business in the British Isles, Warner said, was larger during the past year than at any time in the company's history, owing in part to the presence of American soldiers.

He mentioned the current Department of Justice petition in the New York anti-trust suit, with special regard to divestiture of theatres, and added: "Your company is preparing its defense of this suit."

Postwar Outlook

Finally, Warner said: "Your management would be less than realistic if it were not aware of the possibility of a falling off in theatre attendance as war production is reduced. Any adverse effect from lower industrial production could, of course, be partially offset by the return of millions of men and women now overseas with the Armed Forces. Provided there is adequate purchasing power, demobilization will proportionately enlarge the potential film-going public. Your company is preparing motion pictures designed for the type of demand that is expected to prevail."

Warners' current assets at the end of the fiscal year amounted to $55,370,245; current liabilities, $27,816,922. Fixed assets stood at $104,422,507; capital and surplus, $105,250,481.

Col. Promotion Men On 'Song' Openings

Columbia field promotion men have returned to their territories following a three-day meeting in New York with Frank P. Rosenberg, advertising-publicity manager, and Harry K. McWilliams, promotion chief, to formulate plans for the promotion of "A Song to Remember."

Jules Serkowich and Myron Eichler are back in St. Louis where the film will open at the Loew's State; Lee Septembre and William Shirley are in Cincinnati for the opening at the RKO Capitol; Abe Bernstein and Ed Rosenbaum are preparing for the Boston opening at Loew's State and Orpheum; Henry G. Morris is in New Orleans for the opening at the RKO Orpheum, all opening on Jan. 25. Mike Newman, Al Rote and Sammy Siegel are handling the San Francisco showing at the Orpheum and the Oakland, opening at the Roxy on Jan. 18.

Warners Promotes Rice

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 10.—Bill Rice, with Warners' studio publicity department since 1937, has been named assistant to Alex Evelove, studio publicity director.

Reintroduce Bill For Film Building

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—Legislation authorizing the construction of a permanent home for Government war pictures and other historical films has been reintroduced in Congress by Rep. Fritz G. Lanham, Texas, and is now before the House Public Buildings and Grounds Committee, of which he is chairman.

The proposed library would cost $2,800,000 and would be located on land now owned by the Government in Maryland, several miles outside of Washington. It would serve as a permanent archive for 300,000,000 feet of available film, 75 per cent of which deals with the present war. Pictures would be made available to film producers, publishers and others.

20th Press Lunch

Thirty members of the foreign press will be guests of 20th Century-Fox at a luncheon at the Pallas Athene today, including publishers, dramatic editors and advertising managers of all foreign language newspapers and magazines published in New York. George A. Generalis, 20th-Fox foreign press contact, will represent the company.

Fitzgerald Calls For Exposition For All Exhibition

(*Continued from page* 1)

cessible place and to be opened by the President of the United States. Through the outside press and trade publications, public attention would be focused on the industry. The plan would be aimed at giving an impetus to the desire to increase showmanship in film exhibition.

The exposition, Fitzgerald's proposal sets forth, would be non-political, basically intended for the general improvement of exhibition nationally, and would make available from the pool of showmanship benefits that are now accessible only to the originators; there would be a showmanship award akin to the Academy award.

Representatives of the trade publications would act in collaboration with exhibition publicity representatives.

Fitzgerald proposes that there be a 'Distribution Hall,' 'Production Hall,' 'Public Relations and Publicity Hall,' 'Studio Hall' and a 'Hall of the 48 States' which daily would be presided over by seven stars from seven states, anticipating that the exposition be held for one week.

Exhibits would also be arranged for war activities, industry personnel, radio, short subjects, the vending field, television, equipment, radio, Technicolor and fashions.

Fitzgerald urges exhibitor leaders to 'get together' for consideration of such a plan.

CEA May Set Up New Unit for Managers

LONDON, Jan. 10.—A plan for a separate, autonomous branch of the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association, for managers only, has been adopted by CEA's general council. All managers would be invited to join.

The branch would enjoy rights equal to CEA's present district branches, subject, as they are, only to general council discipline. A committee has been instructed to prepare an amendment to the association's rules for presentation at the annual meeting.

The move is regarded as an effective rejoinder to the managers' trade-union movement and is also expected to put an end to current wrangles of rival managerial associations.

Cutting New MPSA Foreign Group Head

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 10.—Jack Cutting of the Walt Disney studio today succeeded William Gordon of RKO as chairman of the foreign committee of the Motion Picture Society for the Americas.

Selznick Signs Sternberg

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 10.—David O. Selznick yesterday announced the signing of Josef von Sternberg for the production staff of Selznick-International and Vanguard Pictures. Sternberg will be available to Alfred Hitchcock, King Vidar, Dore Schary, John Cromwell, William Dieterle and other producers and directors under Selznick contract.

3 WEEKS ON THE CRITICS

Motion Picture Herald

"Vera Hruba Ralston is back on skates again in 'Lake Placid Serenade,' dancing with the skill and grace which made her an Olympic champion. Around her Republic has placed a cast of competent performers. It's a large and attractive cast . . . impressive production, fully satisfying."

Boxoffice

"Eye-filling ice spectacles and tuneful numbers by two top name orchestras are the attractions of this production, upon which Republic spent a lot of money . . . the pitch of the entire production is a timely one . . . standout 'names' upon which the exhibitor may capitalize."

Harrison's Reports

"Those who enjoy watching graceful figure skating and lavish production numbers with ice-skating ballets should find much in 'Lake Placid Serenade' to please them. Miss Ralston is an excellent skater, executing her routines with the utmost of ease and grace."

Variety

"Republic has a nifty vehicle in 'Lake Placid Serenade.' Film is a lavish display of spectacle, specialty and girls. Pic, with its ice-skating background, is a timely seasonal film, and will do good biz. Lovely to look at, beautifully built, and a graceful figure on skates, Miss Ralston makes an appealing heroine."

Showmen's Trade Review

"Vera Hruba Ralston's build-up by Republic has been carried along intelligent, showmanly lines. The star never looked better than as a figure skating champion and the production numbers, built around her exceptional ability to carve graceful and intricate patterns in ice, are beautifully staged."

Motion Picture Daily

" 'Lake Placid Serenade' achieves beauty and distinction that augurs well for the wintry box office."

The Independent

"GOOD ENTERTAINMENT. Miss Ralston is highly to be recommended. She is allowed ample opportunity to display the skating talent that made her the figure skating champion of her native Czechoslovakia."

The Film Daily

"Ice spectacle, skating wizardry of Ralston and musical content should prove the making of this picture. A musical cut skillfully to pattern. Fashioned along popular lines, the eye-catching production constitutes a show of ample proportions."

The Exhibitor

"Tuneful skating show is packed with selling angles. Republic has spent plenty of money on this ice show, and the results should justify the expenditure. Ralston is seen to advantage in the skating numbers, which are well-staged, and she gets good support."

BROADWAY! SAY IT'S TERRIFIC!

VERA HRUBA RALSTON

in

Lake Placid Serenade

featuring

EUGENE PALLETTE
VERA VAGUE
ROBERT LIVINGSTON
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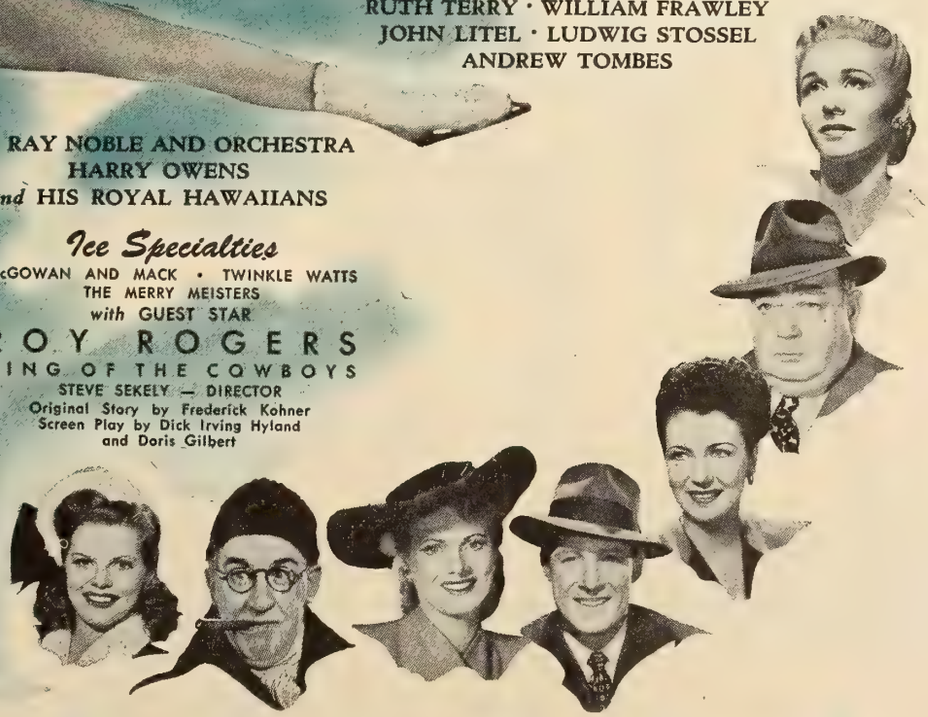

L I C P I C T U R E

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Dec. 16	TOGETHER AGAIN C—100 mins. (6003) (Rev. 11/3/44) SADDLE LEATHER LAW O—55 mins. (6203) (Rev. 1/3/45)	(Ninth Block) THE THIN MAN GOES HOME William Powell Myrna Loy C—100 mins. (513) (Rev. 11/24/44)	ALASKA Kent Taylor Margaret Lindsay D—76 mins. (403) (Rev. 10/16/44)	(Special Reissue) THE SIGN OF THE CROSS Fredric March Claudette Colbert D—118 mins. (4432) (Rev. 8/23/44)		THOROUGH-BREDS Tom Neal Adele Mara D—55 mins. (408)	(Special Release) THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW (International) E. G. Robinson Joan Bennett Raymond Massey D—99 mins. (582) (Rev. 10/10/44)	(Special Release) WILSON (Color) Alexander Knox Geraldine Fitzgerald D—154 mins. (530) (Rev. 8/2/44)		MY GAL LOVES MUSIC Grace McDonald Bob Crosby M—63 mins. (9037) (Rev. 12/5/44) THE OLD TEXAS TRAIL Rod Cameron O—60 mins. (9082)	
Dec. 23	DANCING IN MANHATTAN Fred Brady Jeff Donnell C—60 mins. (6038) (Rev. 12/21/44)	MAIN STREET AFTER DARK Edward Arnold Selena Royle D—57 mins. (514) (Rev. 11/28/44)	BOWERY CHAMPS East Side Kids D—62 mins. (409) (Rev. 11/16/44)	(Second Block) FRENCHMAN'S CREEK (Color) Joan Fontaine Arturo de Cordova D—113 mins. (4408) (Rev. 9/20/44)	CASTLE OF CRIMES (British) Keneth Kent Diana Churchill Belle Chrystall D—60 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44)	THE BIG BONANZA Richard Arlen D—69 mins. (407) (Rev. 1/10/44)	(Special Release) CASANOVA BROWN (International) Gary Cooper Teresa Wright C—92 mins. (581) (Rev. 8/1/44)		TOMORROW THE WORLD Fredric March Betty Field D—86 mins. (Rev. 12/18/44)	DESTINY Gloria Jean Alan Curtis Grace McDonald D—65 mins. (Rev. 12/7/44)	
Dec. 30	TAHITI NIGHTS Dave O'Brien Jinx Falkenburg C—(6025) LET'S GO STEADY Pat Parrish Jackie Moran June Preisser C—60 mins. (6039)	MUSIC FOR MILLIONS Margaret O'Brien Jose Iturbi M—118 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/13/44)	NAVAJO TRAILS Johnny Mack Brown O—(454)	MINISTRY OF FEAR Ray Milland Marjorie Reynolds D—84 mins. (4410) (Rev. 10/18/44)	THE WHISPERING SKULL (Texas Rangers) O—55 mins.	SHERIFF OF LAS VEGAS 66 mins.—O (3316) (Rev. 1/3/45)	(First Block) MY PAL WOLF Jill Esmond Una O'Connor D—69 mins. (505) (Rev. 9/21/44) NONE BUT THE LONELY HEART Cary Grant Ethel Barrymore D—113 mins. (501) (Rev. 10/2/44) GOIN' TO TOWN Lum and Abner C—75 mins. (504) (Rev. 9/25/44) TALL IN THE SADDLE John Wayne O—87 mins. (503) (Rev. 9/26/44) THE MASTER RACE George Coulouris D—96 mins. (502) (Rev. 8/21/44)		I'LL BE SEEING YOU Ginger Rogers Joseph Cotten D—85 mins. (Rev. 12/19/44)	CAN'T HELP SINGING (Color) Deanna Durbin Robert Paige Akim Tamiroff M—88mins. (9071) (Rev. 12/14/44)	
Jan. 6	YOUTH ON TRIAL Cora Sue Collins David Reed Eric Sinclair D	BLONDE FEVER Philip Dorn Mary Astor C—69 mins. (516) (Rev. 11/28/44)	ARMY WIVES Elyse Knox Rick Vallin D—67 mins. (414) (Rev.12/5/44)	THE MAN IN HALF-MOON STREET Nils Asther Helen Walker D—92 mins. (4407) (Rev. 10/17/44)				(Fifth Block) (Dec. Release) WINGED VICTORY Edmond O'Brien Jeanne Crain D—130 min. (512) (Rev. 11/22/44)		NIGHT CLUB GIRL Vivian Austin Edward Norris M—60 mins. (9035) (Rev. 12/8/44)	HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN All-Star Cast M—123 mins. (409) (Rev. 12/5/44)
Jan. 13		BETWEEN TWO WOMEN Van Johnson Lionel Barrymore D—82 mins. (518) (Rev. 12/21/44)	ADVENTURES Of KITTY O'DAY Jean Parker D—63 mins. (420) (Rev. 12/8/44)	AND NOW TOMORROW Loretta Young Alan Ladd D—85 mins. (4406) (Rev. 10/17/44)		GRISSLY'S MILLIONS Paul Kelly Virginia Grey D—71 mins. (409)		SUNDAY DINNER FOR A SOLDIER Anne Baxter John Hodiak D—86 mins. (513) (Rev. 12/6/44)	MR. EMMANUEL (British) Felix Aylmer Greta Gynt D—92 mins. (Rev. 1/4/45)	SHE GETS HER MAN Joan Davis William Gargan Leon Errol C—74 mins. (Rev. 1/5/45)	
Jan. 20	EADIE WAS A LADY Joe Besser Hal McIntyre and Orchestra C I LOVE A MYSTERY Jim Bannon Barton Yarborough Nina Foch D	NOTHING BUT TROUBLE Laurel and Hardy C—69 mins. (519) (Rev. 12/5/44)	JADE MASK Sidney Toler D—66 mins. (417)	ONE BODY TOO MANY Jack Haley Jean Parker C—76 mins. (4409) (Rev. 10/18/44)	FOG ISLAND Lionel Atwill George Zucco D		(Second Block) EXPERIMENT PERILOUS Hedy Lamarr George Brent D—91 mins. (510) (Rev. 12/6/44) MURDER, MY SWEET Anne Shirley Dick Powell D—95 mins. (508) (Rev. 12/6/44) GIRL RUSH C—65 mins (506) (Rev. 10/25/44) NEVADA O—62 mins. (509) (Rev. 12/11/44) THE FALCON IN HOLLYWOOD D—67 mins. (507) (Rev. 12/5/44)	(Jan. Release) KEYS OF THE KINGDOM Gregory Peck Thomas Mitchell D—137 mins. (514) (Rev. 12/13/44)		UNDER WESTERN SKIES Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. Leo Carrillo O—57 mins. (9039) (Rev. 1/3/45)	TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT Humphrey Bogart Lauren Bacall D—100 mins. (410) (Rev. 10/11/44)
Jan. 27	SAGEBRUSH HEROES Charles Starrett O	THIS MAN'S NAVY Wallace Beery James Gleason D—98 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/4/45)	THEY SHALL HAVE FAITH Gale Storm C. Aubrey Smith D—83 mins. (Rev. 12/13/44)	(Third Block) HERE COME THE WAVES Bing Crosby Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts M—97 mins. (4411) (Rev. 12/18/44)	HIS BROTHER'S GHOST O—58 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) MARKED FOR MURDER O—56 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) KID SISTER Judy Clark D			THE FIGHTING LADY (Color) (documentary) 61 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/21/44)		THE SUSPECT Charles Laughton Ella Raines Dean Harens D—85 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44)	
Feb. 3	SING ME A SONG OF TEXAS Rosemary Lane Hal McIntyre Orch. M		CISCO KID RETURNS Duncan Renaldo O	DANGEROUS PASSAGE Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4412) (Rev. 12/21/44)	SPELL OF AMY NUGENT (English) Derek Farr D			THE WAY AHEAD (British) David Niven Raymond Huntley D—115 mins. (511)		HERE COME THE CO-EDS Abbott and Costello Phil Spitalny and Orch. C	
Feb. 10		(Special Release) 30 SECONDS OVER TOKYO Spencer Tracy Van Johnson D—138 mins. (511) (Rev. 11/14/44)	GUN SMOKE Johnny Mack Brown O—58 mins. (455)	FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS (Color) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—158 mins. (4413) (Rev. 7/15/43)	THE MAN WHO WALKED ALONE Dave O'Brien O		(Special) THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE (Goldwyn) (Color) Bob Hope Virginia Mayo C—94 mins. (551) (Rev. 10/11/44)			HER LUCKY NIGHT Andrews Sisters Martha O'Driscoll M	
Feb. 17	LEAVE IT TO BLONDIE Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C	(Special Release) MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS (Color) Judy Garland Margaret O'Brien M—113 mins. (512) (Rev. 11/1/44)	DILLINGER Elisha Cook Jr. Lawrence Tierney D	PRACTICALLY YOURS Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray C—90 mins. (4414) (Rev. 12/15/44)			(Special Release) BELLE OF THE YUKON (International) (Color) Randolph Scott Gypsy Rose Lee Dinah Shore C—84 mins. (583) (Rev. 11/29/44)	(Feb. Release) A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN Dorothy McGuire Joan Blondell D		THE HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN Boris Karloff John Carradine D—71 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44) THE MUMMY'S CURSE Lon Chaney D—60 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44)	
Feb. 24	THE CRIME DOCTOR'S COURAGE Warner Baxter Hilary Brooke D			DOUBLE EXPOSURE Chester Morris Nancy Kelly D—63 mins. (4415) (Rev. 12/21/44)	HOLLYWOOD AND VINE James Ellison Wanda McKay D			HANGOVER SQUARE Laird Cregar Linda Darnell D		FRISCO SAL Susanna Foster Turhan Bey M	

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Dram
(M) Musical (C) Comedy (O) Outdoor Action

'Pirate' Is $7,300 Over in Phila.; 'Canteen' Is Strong

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 10.—Center-city houses are still doing over-average business despite holdovers and second runs predominating. "Hollywood Canteen," at the Mastbaum, points to $28,800 for the second week; "Princess and the Pirate," at the Stanley, looks like $27,300 for a second week with an additional $3,500 for a dual Sunday showing at the Earle.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 10-12:

"Meet Me in St. Louis" (M-G-M)
ALDINE—(900) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $22,800. (Average: $14,600).
"Mrs. Parkington" (M-G-M)
ARCADIA — (600) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c) 7 days, 2nd run, 2nd week. Gross: $8,400. (Average: $4,000).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
BOYD — (3,000) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $16,800. (Average: $18,000).
"One Body Too Many" (Para.) 6 days.
"The Princess and the Pirate" (RKO) 1 day
EARLE—(3,000) (40c-50c-85c-95c) 6 days of vaudeville, including Jan Savitt and his band, Helen Warren, Tommy Dix, Anita Martell, and Rolly Rolls. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $27,600).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
FOX — (3,000) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $25,300. (Average: $20,500).
"Our Hearts Were Young and Gay" (Para.)
KARLTON — (1,000) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $6,700. (Average: $6,600).
"The Climax" (Univ.)
KEITH'S—(2,200) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, 2nd run. Gross: $3,300. (Average: $5,800).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
MASTBAUM—(4,700) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $28,800. (Average: $22,500).
"The Princess and the Pirate" (RKO)
STANLEY — (3,000) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $27,300. (Average: $20,000).
"Gypsy Wildcat" (Univ.)
STANTON — (1,700) (40c-45c-50c-65c-75c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $13,800. (Average: $9,400).

Mrs. Frances Mosen Leaving Paramount

Forty Paramount associates will honor Mrs. Boris Mosen (Frances Gashel), secretary to Arthur Israel, Jr., for the past 17 years, at a dinner here tonight.

Mrs. Mosen is retiring to private life tomorrow.

Hirschmann Video Head

Ira A. Hirschmann has been appointed to organize frequency modulation and television activities for Federated Department Stores, Inc., according to an announcement by Walter Rothschild, president of Abraham and Straus, Inc., and of Metropolitan Television, Inc.

Moulton Vice-Chairman

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 10.—Thomas Moulton today succeeded Douglas Shearer as vice-chairman of the research council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

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ANIMATION-CAMERAMAN
High Pay—Excellent Opportunity
CINEFFECTS
1600 Broadway New York City
Circle 6-6252

FP-C's Starter of 18 Now Totals 311

Toronto, Jan. 10.—Famous Players-Canadian Corp., largest Dominion theatre operation, headed by J. J. Fitzgibbons, is now observing its 25th anniversary.

Founded by the late Nathan Louis Nathanson, who migrated from his native Minneapolis to Toronto exhibition in 1916, the circuit has grown in its two and a-half decades from 18 to 311 theatres.

Aim French - Soviet Films for Export

Louis Jouvet, French actor and director, is named in a story published in the *N. Y. World-Telegram* yesterday, as a principal in a French and Soviet movement to win world film markets from Hollywood films after the war. Described as an "expert" on the South American market, Jouvet is said to have the collaboration of Maurice Thorez, "Communist leader," who is said to have returned to France from Moscow recently.

The story relates that reliance is being placed upon obtaining Marlene Dietrich, Jean Gabin, Maurice Chevalier and Raimu for films designed for the South American market.

SAG Meeting Jan. 17 On SPU Conflict

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 10.—The Screen Actors Guild today urged its membership to attend a special meeting Jan. 17, when SAG will outline its stand in the bit-players jurisdictional dispute with the Screen Players Union. A letter to the membership said: "The producers have reaffirmed our contract right to this jurisdiction, but it must be vigilantly protected by all necessary action."

Meanwhile, counsel for the Association of Motion Picture Producers met informally to prepare information on the conflict for presentation to the producers at a meeting in the near future.

Heart Attack Fatal To Edward Fielding

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 10.—Edward Fielding, 63, character actor, died, apparently of a heart attack, while mowing the lawn at his Beverly Hills home today. He was within two weeks of completing work in "Colonel Effingham's Raid." His recent films included "The Song of Bernadette," "Wilson," "See Here, Private Hargrove" and "Lady in the Dark." Surviving are his widow and a daughter, Elizabeth.

HVC Personalities in 1,654 Appearances

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 10.—The December report of the Hollywood Victory Committee reveals that 397 Hollywood personalities made 1,654 appearances in 222 events during the month, 1,417 of them before members of the Armed Forces.

Akron 'Navy' Premiere

World premiere of M-G-M's "This Man's Navy" will be held at Loew's Theatre, Akron, Feb. 8.

NBC, Blue Networks Refuse to Bargain

National Broadcasting and the Blue Network have refused to bargain with either the American Federation of Musicians or the National Association of Broadcast Engineers and Technicians regarding the issue of record changers until their jurisdictional dispute has been settled.

Both networks declared they were confronted with strike possibilities whichever way they decided, due to inter-union differences. NABET, which the National Labor Relations Board certified last month in a decision which James C. Petrillo, head of AFM, refused to recognize, is expected to ask the NLRB to enforce its decision through Federal court action, if necessary.

Nassour Files Patent Suit Against Plastic

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 10.—Edward Nassour filed suit in Superior Court here today against Plastic Cartoons, Inc., asking declaratory relief from alleged infringement of a patent process he invented in 1936. Nassour recently became associated with Walter Lantz to produce four-reel features combining cartoons with live action.

CBS Promotes Stanley

Howard Stanley, for the past year-and-a-half director of press information and sales promotion for WTOP, CBS owned station in Washington, has been named assistant director of promotion service for all CBS-owned stations.

'Pirate's' $18,000 Good in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 10.—"The Princess and the Pirate," at the Fox, heads the week's box office parade with an estimated $18,000. Despite cold weather and slippery streets, attendance at most first runs was encouraging.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 7:

"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,162) (40c-50c-60c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $18,900).
"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
"Enter Arsene Lupin" (Univ.)
AMBASSADOR — (3,154) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,700).
"The Man in Half Moon Street" (Para.)
"Ministry of Fear" (Para.)
MISSOURI—(3,514) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $5,200. (Average: $9,900).
"The Princess and the Pirate" (RKO)
"Murder in the Blue Room" (Univ.)
FOX—(5,038) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $18,700).
"Kismet" (M-G-M)
"Tahiti Nights" (Col.)
LOEW'S ORPHEUM — (1,900) (40c-50c-60c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $7,500. (Average: $7,100).
"The Very Thought of You" (WB)
"Lake Placid Serenade" (Rep.)
SHUBERT — (1,900) (40c-50c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $4,600. (Average: $6,100).
"The Merry Monahans" (Univ.)
"San Diego, I Love You" (Univ.)
ST. LOUIS — (4,000) (45c-50c) 7 days. Gross: $6,500). (Average: $5,200).

Blue Promotes Wamboldt

Melvin P. Wamboldt, a production supervisor at the Blue Network and former senior production director with NBC's Central division, has been named Eastern production manager for the Blue, effective Feb. 1, and succeeding Lindsay MacHarrie who will join Young and Rubicam.

First Balcony for Romeo and Juliet

The balcony crowd wants to hear every sweet whisper of love in that Hollywood masterpiece. Does the "last seat Romeo" get it, or does he hear a second rate copy of the perfect Hollywood original? You can check your audience response to improved sound and projection service at your box office. We've proved that in thousands of Altec Service houses. Our engineers can help you. They're backed by a nationwide organization alert to every development in booth operation and equipment. Call or write today for the Altec service especially suited to you.

ALTEC SERVICE CORPORATION
250 West 57th Street
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A GUIDE FOR FILM SHOPPERS

by BOSLEY CROWTHER
in N. Y. TIMES

First off, "National Velvet" at the Music Hall—provided, you don't mind waiting to get a seat. This Metro picture about a girl and boy who win a horse in a raffle and train the willful animal to run in the Grand National Steeplechase is as happy and thrilling a picture as you'll find on the holiday screens. Elizabeth Taylor is charming as the lassie who boots the winner home and Mickey Rooney is remarkably appealing as a race-shy jockey who trains her, the horse—and himself. You'll wait long to find a better picture.

A very worthy second for the whole family, neighbors and friends is Metro's "Meet Me In St. Louis," which is filling the Astor's screen. It tells a charming story of a St. Louis household back in 1904, with Margaret O'Brien and Judy Garland as two of four spirited daughters in this brood. Miss Garland sings several songs grandly (including the clang-clang "Trolley Song") and little Maggie is deliciously amusing as the mischievous "baby" of the house. As a matter of fact, little Maggie (that seems such a happy nickname) is also doing superbly in "Music For Millions" at the Capitol, another good film. In this one—a sentimental romance with music, from Metro too—she plays the kid sister of June Allyson, who needs a great deal of comforting because her husband is missing in the war. Jimmy Durante is another first-class comforter, and Jose Iturbi affords the blessing of rare music as balm for everyone, including you.

"Thanks, Mr. Crowther. 'National Velvet' is the all-time champ of the Music Hall, 'Meet Me in St. Louis' is tops in Astor Theatre history, and 'Music For Millions' is S.R.O. at the Capitol."

"I'm playing '30 Seconds Over Tokyo' to record biz right now, Leo. Your Parade of M-G-M hits spells happy 1945 for every box-office."

Join March of Dimes!
—Jan. 25 to 31

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

VOL. 57. NO. 9 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1945 | TEN CENTS

Independents Move to Meet Curbs of War

'Keeping in Business' Will Keynote Allied Meeting

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Plans to "keep the independent exhibitor in business despite wartime restrictions" will keynote the Allied board of directors meeting at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus, Jan. 24-25, it was announced here today from the office of Abram F. Myers, chairman of the board and general counsel. Discussions will center around the position that "the people and the Government both need theatres." The

Abram F. Myers

(Continued on page 8)

Allow Time to Dim Marquees

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Definite orders to be issued by the office of public utilities of the War Production Board will darken the marquees of the nation's theatres, with the exception of those served with hydro-electric current, it was disclosed here tonight. MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday announced the consideration of this order. The order will give all persons affected time to comply, but will be issued immediately.

A meeting was held with public

(Continued on page 8)

Disney's Shorts Win Herald's Best Poll

Walt Disney's cartoons for the fifth straight year were the favorite box office short subjects of 1944, in a nationwide exhibitor poll taken by *Motion Picture Herald for Fame*. Color, cartoons and comedy, in that order, featured the year's favorites. Half of the top money-making 10

(Continued on page 8)

See 25% Rise from School Shutdown

Theatre film bookers here are starting to rearrange booking schedules to take advantage of a shutdown of New York City's schools from Jan. 31 to Feb. 5, ordered by the Board of Education to conserve coal.

Trade circles estimate that business increases some 25 per cent on school holidays.

Mono. Foreign Sales Up 60%

Monogram's foreign sales have increased 60 per cent in the last year, Norton V. Ritchey, vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here yesterday. Remittances from England, where Pathe Pictures, Ltd., handles the company's distribution, are up 40 per cent, Ritchey said.

In Europe Monogram will revive franchise agreements in some instances, and establish its own offices in others,

Norton V. Ritchey

(Continued on page 8)

SCTOA Backs Law's Plan

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 11.—The Southern California Theatre Owners Association will take up the sponsorship of the trade grievance conciliation plan of the late Albert J. Law, which has already been adopted by the SCTOA locally. The plan, which was submitted by Law to Wendell Berge of the Department of Justice in Washington in late December, reportedly received favorable consideration, and Law was in the midst of negotiations with film executives in New York when he died there on Jan. 1.

Directors of the SCTOA will meet within the next few days to name a successor to Law, who was executive secretary and general counsel, and are expected to recommend officially that

(Continued on page 8)

Rosenberg Is Named Chairman of P.I.C.

Frank Rosenberg, Columbia advertising-publicity director, yesterday was elected chairman of the industry Public Information Committee, Eastern division, succeeding Hal Horne, 20th Century-Fox advertising-publicity director, whose term expired.

Under the PIC's rotating chairmanship schedule, each chairman serves for six-months. PIC membership consists of the advertising-publicity heads of the national distributors. Glendon Allvine of the MPPDA is executive secretary.

'IA' to Decide On Managers' Unionization

Salesmen Also on Agenda Of Mid-Winter Meeting

The IATSE executive committee at its Mid-Winter meeting, at the Hotel Nicollet, Minneapolis, during the week starting Monday, is expected to decide the question of whether the 'IA' will issue charters to theatre manager and film salesmen groups to launch such 'IA' locals throughout the country in a widespread organization drive.

Richard F. Walsh

Several theatre manager and salesmen groups sought charters at the last

(Continued on page 8)

Burrows Here On Raw Stock

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Stanley B. Adams, director of the consumers durable goods division of the War Production Board, and Lincoln V. Burrows, chief of the photographic section, left here for New York tonight for weekend talks with company officials on raw stock.

They are expected to discuss the more detailed determination of the allocation cut which they have been working on for some weeks, as well as possible plans for distribution of the

(Continued on page 8)

Scollard, Schubart To Set SOEG Pact

C. J. Scollard, Paramount exchange operational head, and A. A. Schubart, RKO Radio exchange supervisor, left New York yesterday for California to start negotiations with representatives of the Screen Office Employes Guild for a new contract to cover about 150 office workers in Los An-

(Continued on page 8)

Rathvon Names 55 Area Chairmen for Red Cross

N. Peter Rathvon, national chairman of the industry's 'Red Cross War Fund Week' for 1945, announced here yesterday the appointment of 55 exhibitors who will serve as area chairmen throughout the U. S. and possessions during the drive, which will begin March 15.

The appointees and the areas they will supervise are: C. J. Latta, Albany; R. B. Wilby and O. C. Lam, Atlanta; S. Pinanski and Nathan Yamins, Boston; Ed Fay, Rhode Island; Robert T. Murphy, Buffalo; H. F. Kincey, Charlotte; John Balaban and Jack Kirsch, Chicago; Col. Arthur Frudenfeld and P. J. Wood, Cincinnati; Meyer Fine and P. J. Wood.

(Continued on page 8)

Truck Situation Becomes Tighter

Washington, Jan. 11.—The already serious truck situation facing film delivery services is further aggravated by a new War Production Board order further cutting the manufacture of civilian trucks to 120,278 for the first half of 1945 from the 133,410 allowed in the original schedule.

WPB officials disclosed that the reduced rate will continue also for the second half of the year.

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Produced by
DARRYL F. ZANUCK
Directed by
GEORGE CUKOR
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Republic Airs Stock Cuts at Chicago Meet

CHICAGO, Jan. 11.—William Saal, executive assistant to Herbert J. Yates, Sr., chairman of the Republic board, stated here today that the reduced raw stock situation will be aired at the company's regional sales meeting, which was delayed until late this afternoon because of disrupted train schedules, but that nothing definite will be decided as to the future number of prints until the War Production Board's proposed method of levying the cut is definitely ascertained. The new cut will affect the company's plans to release one "A" picture a month.

Start New National Checking Service

Formation of a new company to operate a checking service for participating distributors is scheduled to be completed in the near future. John J. O'Connor, vice-president of Universal, has been named to head the company, temporarily, until a permanent executive head is employed.

Indications are the new national checking service will begin functioning some time next Spring with five national distributors subscribing to its services. They are: Columbia, Paramount, RKO Radio, United Artists and Universal. Individual company checking services are operated now by Loew's and Warners, while 20th Century-Fox presumably will continue to use Ross Federal Service.

Franchise Suit Trial Now Set for Feb. 2

Examination of Samuel Rinzler before trial in connection with a suit by the Leader Theatre Corp. against 20th Century-Fox and Randforce Amusement Co. has been postponed to Jan. 19. A possible appeal from the examination may be taken by Randforce attorneys, since the court, in granting the examination, is alleged to have allowed a wide latitude of questioning. In the meantime, suit has been set for a Feb. 2 trial in New York Supreme Court by Justice Louis Valente.

Suit seeks to determine whether a franchise can be shifted at will by a film company from one theatre to another.

MGM Exploiteers and Office Heads Here

M-G-M's second group of field exploiteers and its third group of office managers will arrive Monday for a week at the home office to become familiar with operations, in line with plans of William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager.

Exploiteers are: Emery Austin, Atlanta; Mark Jenkins of the M-G-M Showbuilder traveling unit; Todd Ferguson, Memphis. Office managers are: Helmer P. Mosley, New Orleans; R. W. Royalty, Oklahoma City; G. A. Derrick, Salt Lake City; G. E. Weber, New Haven.

Personal Mention

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M vice-president and general sales manager, will leave today for a two-week vacation in Florida.

•

L. R. ANTOS, GEORGE F. COOPER, R. DOHERTY, WILLIAM GUNZELMAN, E. S. HANNAHAN, R. HILDRETH, F. E. HINNANT, E. PELSON, M. SCHMALZBACH, C. WAGNER, A. C. WILSON and B. WOLFF, 20th Century-Fox traveling auditors who came to New York for a conference, have returned to their branches.

•

VERA HARDWOOD and JOE STONE of Stoler and Company will be married on Sunday.

•

S. E. PIERPOINT, Paramount Brazilian manager, will arrive in New York from the Coast today, accompanied by MRS. PIERPOINT and their son, and will leave for Brazil in a fortnight.

•

THOMAS J. HARGRAVE, president of Eastman Kodak, has been named chairman of the Monroe County, N. Y., Red Cross War Fund Drive.

•

PHIL WILLIAMS, March of Time advertising-publicity director, will return to New York today from Boston, Worcester and Springfield.

•

FRANK MORIN, manager of Warners' Regal Theatre, Hartford, and MRS. MORIN, will observe their 11th wedding anniversary today.

•

TONY SUDEKUM, president of Crescent Amusement Co., has been reelected to the board of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce.

•

GEORGE GLASS left Hollywood for New York yesterday on the Chief and will announce a new affiliation upon his arrival here.

•

HENRY NEEDLES, Warners' district manager in Hartford, will leave Sunday for a two-week vacation in New York.

•

ED HINCHY, head of Warners' playdate department, will return to the home office next week from Boston.

•

R. M. SAVINI, president of Astor Pictures, is in Atlanta on business en route to Dallas.

JOSEPH BERNHARD, Warners' general manager, will leave New York today for the Coast.

•

LESTER COWAN will not leave here for the Coast at the weekend as inadvertently reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday, but is scheduled to arrive here from Hollywood on Monday.

•

FRITZ H. THOMAS, manager of Crescent Amusement theatres in Huntsville, Ala., has been elected chairman of the Huntsville and Madison County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

•

MOE SILVER, Warner Theatres zone manager in Pittsburgh, and HARRY FEINSTEIN and BEN STEERMAN of his staff arrived in New York yesterday and will return over the weekend.

•

JOHN BALABAN, head of Balaban and Katz, Chicago, is co-chairman of the 23rd anniversary dinner of the Hebrew Theological College, to be held in Chicago Sunday.

•

PFC ROBERT A. LYNN of the 504th Parachute Infantry, son of ROBERT LYNN of the Roxy Theatre here, has received the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

•

MAX MILDER, Warners' managing director for Great Britain, and JACOB WILK, Eastern production manager, will arrive at the Burbank studio today.

•

BURGESS WALTMAN, manager of Richards-Lightman Theatres, Columbus, Miss., has been elected president of the Chamber of Commerce there.

•

LT. ROBERT TAYLOR, USNR, and his wife, BARBARA STANWYCK, have arrived in New York.

•

HAROLD RODNER, Warner executive, is in Chicago and will return to New York Monday.

•

ROBERT BUCKNER, Warner producer, will arrive in New York tomorrow from the Coast.

•

SOL LESSER will leave Hollywood for New York on the *Superchief* Tuesday.

WAC to Show 'Name'

The War Activities Committee, in conjunction with the War Department, will screen "What's Your Name" this afternoon in Paramount's home office projection room. Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, regional director of the War Manpower Commission, will speak and Sam Dembow, consultant to the Secretary of War, will be among those attending. The film, to be released Jan. 18, will be distributed by 20th Century-Fox.

68¾c Columbia Dividend

Columbia's board of directors have declared a quarterly dividend of 68¾ cents a share on the $2.75 convertible preferred stock, payable Feb. 15 to stockholders of record Feb. 1.

Reception Held By Pictorial Films

Pictorial Films, distributors of eight and 16 mm films, held a reception here yesterday at the St. Moritz Hotel to mark its association with Pathe Industries, Inc.

Among those present were J. Stinson Young, Karl Herzog, Nick Tronolone, Harry Blair, Leo McCarthy, George Fleitman, Saul Jaffee, Nat Saland, Richard Altachuler, Phil Brody, Harry Michalson, and trade press representatives.

Schlaifer's Sister Dies

Mrs. Mary Taxman, sister of L. J. Schlaifer, Central sales manager of 20th-Fox, died recently after a long illness in Kansas City, Mo.

NEW YORK THEATRES

STARTS TOMORROW
He's Great with a Gun And He's Got to Kill!
Erich Von Stroheim — Mary Beth Hughes
The Great Flamarion
with
Dan Duryea — Stephen Barclay
A Republic Picture
REPUBLIC THEATRE
B'way, Bet. 51st & 52nd Sts.
FIRST N. Y. SHOWING!

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50TH STREET & 6TH AVENUE
M-G-M's
"NATIONAL VELVET"
MICKEY ROONEY
DONALD CRISP - ELIZABETH TAYLOR
JACKIE JENKINS - REGINALD OWEN
and THE MUSIC HALL'S
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN 'I LOVE A SOLDIER' PAULETTE GODDARD SONNY TUFTS
IN PERSON RUBINOFF and his VIOLIN ROMO VINCENT

BING CROSBY BETTY HUTTON SONNY TUFTS
In Person Woody HERMAN and His Orchestra ALL-STAR REVUE
"Here Come the Waves"
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
HEDY LAMARR
GEORGE BRENT - PAUL LUKAS
"Experiment Perilous"
An RKO Picture

20TH CENTURY-FOX PRESENTS
A. J. Cronin's
"THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM"
Continuous Performances
RIVOLI B'way & 49th St.

MOSS HART'S
WINGED VICTORY
A 20th CENTURY-FOX PICTURE
Produced by DARRYL F. ZANUCK
Directed by GEORGE CUKOR
In Person NICHOLAS BROTHERS
Extra JACK DURANT
ROXY 7th AVE. & 50th ST.

Change 'Burma' Showing

Warners will tradeshow "Objective, Burma" on Jan. 29 instead of Jan. 22 as previously announced.

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Non-Theatrical Aid Is Set for 'Dimes'

CHICAGO, Jan. 11.—Members of the non-theatrical committee for the March of Dimes drive in Illinois will assist theatres during collection week through organized groups in each county. M. M. Rubens, co-chairman of the drive and Great States division manager, reports this to be the first time theatrical and non-theatrical divisions will be cooperating 100 per cent.

'Dimes' Opening Monday To Feature Stars

A March of Dimes rally will be held Monday at Rockefeller Plaza here with NBC broadcasting from 12:30 to 1:00 P. M. Frank Fay will be master of ceremonies. Featured will be Jack Benn, Don Wilson, Mary Livingstone, Eddie Anderson, Phil Harris, Larry Stevens and Margaret O'Brien.

Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis will speak, and music will be provided by the Mitchell Field Army Air Forces Band and the Coast Guard Glee Club.

Koerner Hosts RKO's Folliard, Gittleson

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 11.—Charles W. Koerner, RKO vice-president in charge of production, will be host to Robert Folliard and Harry Gittleson, handling the 1945 Ned Depinet Drive, J. H. MacIntyre, RKO Western district manager and the Denver, Salt Lake, San Francisco and Los Angeles sales staffs, at a luncheon today.

Following the luncheon the sales force, headed by Folliard, Gittleson, MacIntyre and branch managers T. H. Bailey, G. Davison, H. C. Cohen and N. P. Jacobs of the Denver, Salt Lake, Los Angeles and San Francisco branches, respectively, will meet.

Rosenberg New M&P Rhode Island Chief

BOSTON, Jan. 11.—Ben Rosenberg, for the past several years manager of the Metropolitan Theatre here, today was appointed district manager for M. and P. Theatres in Rhode Island, with headquarters in Providence. Rosenberg succeeds William Spragg, who will move to California.

Max Nayor, manager of the Washington Street Olympia, becomes manager of the Metropolitan. Harry Goldberg, manager of the Modern, goes to the Olympia; and Henry Kalis returns to downtown Boston after a period as manager of the Franklin Park to take over the Modern.

Contracts Refused as Evidence in Chicago

CHICAGO, Jan. 11.—Federal Judge William Holly today denied the entrance of film contracts issued by distributors to plaintiff Thomas A. Murray, former operator of the Thalia Theatre, as evidence in the $1,000,000 conspiracy case against the majors, Balaban and Katz and others. Harold Norman, plaintiff's attorney, claimed the contracts, although issued by different distributors, provide for similar price control regulations, due to alleged pressure from local theater circuits.

Edward R. Johnston, defense attorney representing Paramount, claimed the contracts have nothing to do with the conspiracy charges as set forth in the plaintiff's complaint.

McCormick to Return From Coast Monday

S. Barret McCormick, director of advertising-publicity of RKO Radio, will return Monday from three weeks at the Coast studio where he conferred with Charles W. Koerner, vice-president in charge of production, and Perry Lieber, studio publicity chief, on promotional campaigns for forthcoming productions.

McCormick set the campaign for "Murder, My Sweet," which will include a number of key city personal appearances by Dick Powell. Plans were also discussed for campaigns on "The Enchanted Cottage" and "The Spanish Main." He also conferred with Leo Spitz and William Goetz on campaigns for International's "It's a Pleasure!"; with Samuel Goldwyn on "Wonder Man;" and with Walt Disney on "The Three Caballeros," his newest Technicolor production.

Blumenstock Leaves For Chicago, Atlanta

Mort Blumenstock, in charge of Warners' Eastern advertising-publicity department, will leave today for Chicago to set promotional plans for "Objective, Burma." He will then fly to Georgia for talks with officials there on the world premiere of "God Is My Co-Pilot," which will open Feb. 21 in Macon.

Meanwhile Lamar Swift, Macon manager for Lucas and Jenkins Theatres, has announced that opening night admission prices will be scaled at $10, with proceeds going to charity. The premiere will honor Col. Robert Lee Scott of Macon, author of the book on which "God Is My Co-Pilot" is based. Phil Buchheit of the Macon *News* and *Telegraph* is general chairman for the affair.

RMA Cancels Meets To Aid Travel Curb

The Radio Manufacturers Association has cancelled its annual mid-Winter conference scheduled for Feb. 19-21, at the Hotel Roosevelt here, in cooperation with the Government's travel curtailment. A meeting of the RMA board will be held here Feb. 21, but all other committee and group meetings have been cancelled.

Cancellation also is in prospect for the tentative RMA trade show authorized for June in Chicago. It is probable that the annual RMA war Production Conference and annual membership meeting also scheduled for Chicago in June will be held but on a much reduced scale.

215 Honor Medals In So. California

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 11.—Two hundred fifteen 'Medals of Honor' finally will go to men and women identified with 619 theatres in the Southern California territory for their outstanding effort in the Sixth War Loan. Charles Skouras of Fox West Coast Theatres already has presented 110 to his personnel, and today 31 men and women identified with Warner, Paramount and RKO theatres were presented medals at a luncheon at Perino's here.

Ted Gamble, national director of the Treasury's War Finance Division, interrupted a holiday to attend the ceremonies and make a speech again lauding the part played by the nation's showmen in all war loan drives. Hugh Bruen made the presentations through Lou Halper for Warner, Marko Wolff for Paramount and Rodney Pantages for RKO. Tom W. Baily, executive director of the California Theatre Council, which gave the luncheon, presided.

Speakers included Mayor Fletcher Bowron, who lauded the community and national spirit of the local theatre industry; Gus Metzger, local drive chairman; Robert H. Poole, representing independent theatres, and Howard Mills and Robert Moulton, representing the war finance committee of the Treasury.

Columbia's Biggest Campaign for 'Song'

The most extensive advertising campaign ever undertaken by Columbia on a single picture has been prepared for the company's Technicolor production, "A Song to Remember," which is scheduled to open at Radio City Music Hall at the end of the month.

In addition to heavy national advertising, the New York campaign has been launched with the first use by Columbia of subway car cards. Full page ads will appear in the magazine sections of this Sunday's *Times, News* and *Mirror;* all local newspaper space obtainable has been contracted for; radio spot announcements have been set and billboards and subway station posters will be used in greater volume than ever before by the company. Frank Rosenberg, Columbia advertising-publicity director, mapped the campaign.

KQW in Col. Promotion

Radio station KQW, CBS outlet in San Francisco, has joined the "George Sand Memorial Talent Search," established by Columbia Pictures in conjunction with "A Song to Remember," bringing to 39 the number of CBS station in the promotion.

Honor Frances Gashel

Paramount executives Barney Balaban, Austin C. Keough, Arthur Israel, Jr., Edwin L. Weisl, Paul Raibourn, and others attended a reception here last night honoring Frances Gashel (Mrs. Boris Mosen), secretary to Israel, who is retiring today. After the reception, Balaban was host to 40 at a theatre party.

Henie Show Here Jan. 17

Sonja Henie will start her annual New York ice show engagement at Madison Square Garden Jan. 17.

$47,000 Over For 'St. Louis' And 'Singing'

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 11.—"Meet Me in St. Louis" and "Can't Help Singing" divided the cream of the grosses in a post-holiday week of good weather. "St. Louis" took $99,400 at the Egyptian-Los Angeles-Ritz trio, where $52,500 is average. "Can't Help Singing" got $56,000 at the Hillstreet-Pantages pair.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 10:

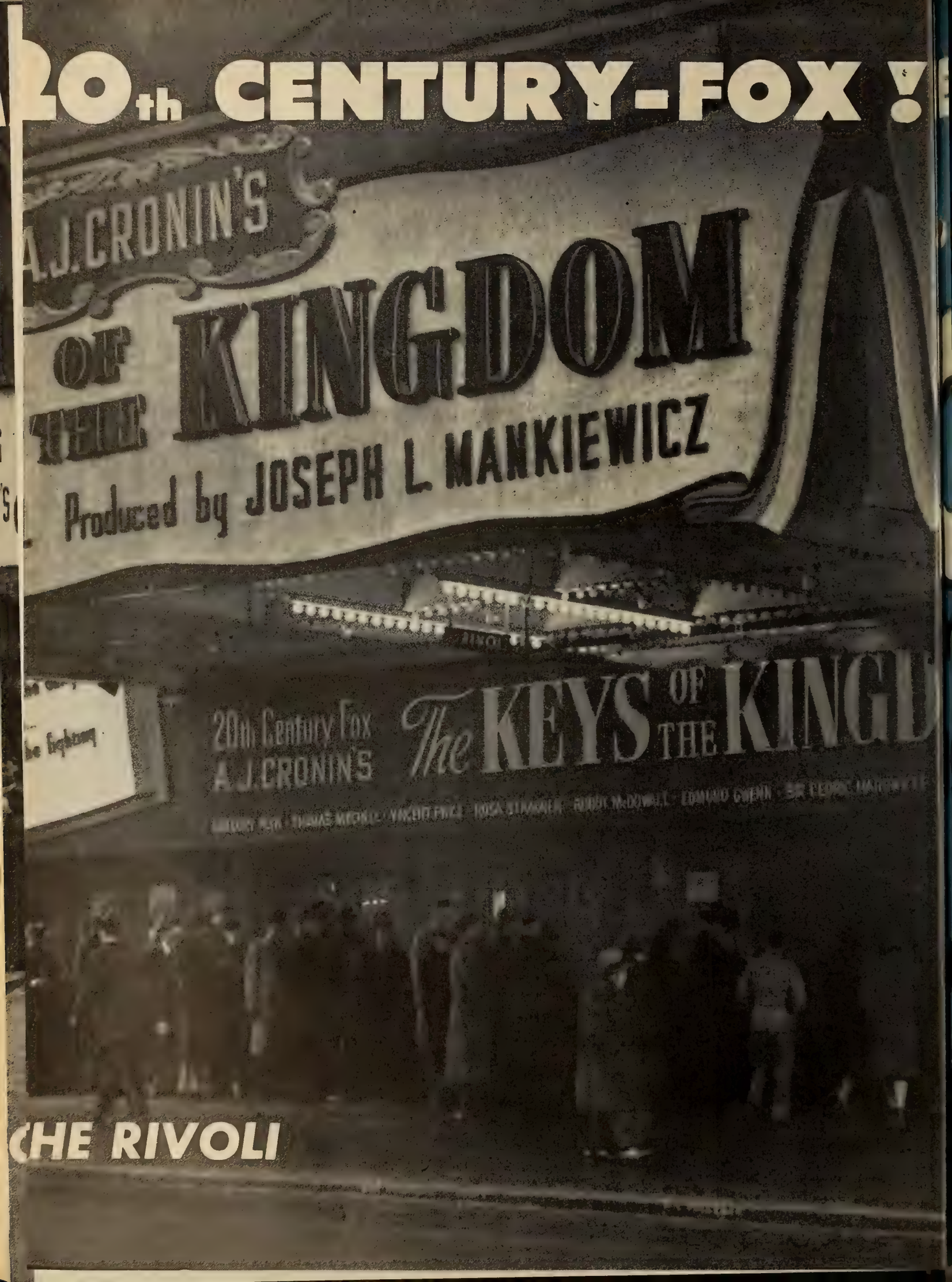
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
CHINESE—(2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,800. (Average: $14,900).
"Meet Me in St. Louis" (M-G-M)
EGYPTIAN—(1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $26,400. (Average: $15,000).
"I'll Be Seeing You" (UA-Selznick)
FOUR STAR—(900) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $3,250).
"I'll Be Seeing You" (UA-Selznick)
FOX-WILSHIRE — (2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $10,500).
"The House of Frankenstein" (Univ.)
"The Mummy's Curse" (Univ.)
HAWAII—(1,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $5,700).
"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
HILLSTREET—(2,700) (50c-60c-80c) 7 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $18,500).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
LOEW'S STATE — (2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $29,300).
"Meet Me in St. Louis" (M-G-M)
LOS ANGELES—(2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $47,000. (Average: $25,000).
"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
PANTAGES—(2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $15,300).
"Ministry of Fear" (Para.)
"The Man in Half-Moon Street" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT HOLLYWOOD — (1,407) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $12,200. (Average: $11,900).
"Ministry of Fear" (Para.)
"The Man in Half-Moon Street" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT DOWNTOWN — (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $19,500).
"Meet Me in St. Louis" (M-G-M)
RITZ—(1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $12,500).
"I'll Be Seeing You" (UA-Selznick)
UNITED ARTISTS—(2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $22,900. (Average: $20,300).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
UPTOWN—(1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,200. (Average: $10,500).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
WARNER HOLLYWOOD—(3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $24,113. (Average: $16,700).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
WARNER DOWNTOWN—(3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $25,054. (Average: $18,700).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
WARNER WILTERN—(2,200) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $22,501. (Average: $15,800).

New FWC Threesome Set in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 11.—Fox West Coast Theatres will establish an additional first-run set-up in the Los Angeles area about Feb. 1 when the 1,000-seat Music Box, former stage theatre now undergoing remodeling, opens as a key house in a new threesome. Downtown and midtown houses to be linked with the Music Box have not yet been selected. The move will tend to thaw the product jam, a FWC official said.

Renew Fellows' Contract

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 11.—RKO today renewed executive producer Robert Fellows' contract for the third year.


20th CENTURY-FOX !
A.J. CRONIN'S
THE KINGDOM OF
Produced by JOSEPH L. MANKIEWICZ
20th Century Fox
A.J. CRONIN'S
The KEYS OF THE KINGD
CHE RIVOLI

EVENTFUL YEAR OF
4th
Y-FOX
gest
on
way
industry!
The KEYS
Directed by JOHN M. STA
AT
S IN 1945
N NOW!

SCTOA Backs Law's Conciliation Plan

(*Continued from page* 1)

his plan be continued. Law's aim was to have the plan adopted nationally, and the SCTOA will attempt to follow through on that intention.

The plan provides a three-point formula for settling exhibitor-distributor disputes without resorting to, or supplanting arbitration board procedure. It was hoped that if the companies viewed its possibilities to the same extent as the Department of Justice, it might be incorporated in the consent decree, and aid in the simplification of the present arbitration system, without in any way disturbing that system.

Distributor executives had told MOTION PICTURE DAILY prior to Law's arrival in New York during Christmas Week, that they were interested in any formula for conciliating trade grievances which would result in better industry relations. Meetings had hardly started, when Law, stricken by a heart attack, died.

Rathvon Names 55 Exhibitor Leaders

(*Continued from page* 1)

Cleveland; R. J. O'Donnell, Henry Reeve and Don Douglas, Dallas; Rick Ricketson, Denver; A. H. Blank, Des Moines; Earl Hudson and Ray Branch, Detroit; Marc Wolf, Indianapolis; Freeman Smith, Kentucky; Elmer Rhoden, Kansas City; Charles Skouras and R. H. Poole, Los Angeles; M. A. Lightman, Memphis; Harold Fitzgerald, Milwaukee; John Friedl, Minneapolis; I. J. Hoffman, New Haven.

Also: E. V. Richards, New Orleans; Fred J. Schwartz and Sam Rinzler, New York; Harry Lowenstein and Frank Damis, Northern New Jersey; L. C. Griffith, Oklahoma City; William Miskell, Omaha; Earle W. Sweigert, Philadelphia; M. A. Silver and M. Finkel, Pittsburgh; O. J. Miller, Portland; Harry Arthur, St. Louis; Sam L. Gillette, Salt Lake City; B. V. Sturdivant and Roy Cooper, San Francisco; Frank Newman and J. M. Hone, Seattle; John J. Payette and Carter Barron, Washington; I. J. Rappaport, Maryland; W. J. Crockett, Virginia.

Area chairmen outside the Continental United States are: Homer Garvin, Alaska; Robert O. Schoham, Puerto Rico; V. Fredericksen, St. Croix, and Clarence Payne, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Scollard, Schubart To Set SOEG Pact

(*Continued from page* 1)

geles exchanges. They will be joined there by Tom Murray of Universal.

Contracts between SOEG and the eight film companies expired last Oct. 19, and benefits negotiated under the new contract will be retroactive to then. The IATSE represents film exchange office workers in all other exchange cities except in New York where Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local 109. CIO, represents these workers in the Columbia, 20th Century-Fox, United Artists, and Loew's exchanges.

IATSE Meeting to Decide On Managers' Unionization

(*Continued from page* 1)

IATSE convention in St. Louis in May, but the question was referred to the "IA" executive board, and the board has deferred action on the petitions until the mid-Winter meeting, it was disclosed here by Richard F. Walsh, IATSE international president, who will preside at the sessions.

It is understood that the IATSE is definitely interested in taking jurisdiction over film salesmen, but "IA" officials have thus far remained noncommittal on the question of taking jurisdiction over theatre managers. IATSE locals in New York and Chicago have already embarked upon campaigns to organize theatre help in those two cities under old IATSE charters. The New York local is confining its drive to ushers, doormen, cashiers, and matrons, but Chicago projectionists' Local No. 110 is including managers and assistant managers in its drive.

The Motion Picture Theatre Operating Managers and Assistant Managers Guild in New York, which has won jurisdiction over managers and assistant managers in 40 RKO theatres in the Metropolitan area, is an independent union and it is believed that the IATSE will make no new bids to organize theatre managers until this union wins its first contract with RKO. The case is presently before the War Labor Board since the company and the Guild are unable to agree on a contract. RKO's management insists that the managers and assistant managers have no right to organize since they are supervisory employees, but the New York State Labor Relations Board, nevertheless, ordered an election and has certified the Guild as the collective bargaining representative of RKO managers and assistants.

'IA' Will Seek More Stage Production

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 11.—When the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes' board of directors meets here at the Nicollet Hotel starting Monday, it is expected that it will consider ways and means to encourage additional stage production in order to provide more employment for member stagehands. Other routine business carried over from the organization's annual convention of last year also will be acted upon by 'IA' president Richard Walsh and the board members. Twin City IATSE unions will be host to the board at a banquet at the Hotel Nicollet on Jan. 17.

Allied Plans Meeting New Wartime Curbs

(*Continued from page* 1)

meeting will be preceded by a dinner on the evening of January 23, tendered the national directors by directors of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio. The first session will be devoted to Myers' annual report and a discussion of the latest consent-decree developments. There will also be reports of the Allied Caravan committee and various special committees named at the last meeting at Bretton Woods, N. H. Later sessions will be devoted mainly to the election of officers and to measures affecting the internal organizations and functions of Allied. Several amendments to the constitution and by-laws have been proposed. Martin G. Smith, president, will preside.

Among other Allied leaders who will attend are: John Adler, William E. Ainsworth, Maxwell Aderman, Ray Branch, H. A. Coe, Irving Dollinger, Roy E. Harrold, Jack Kirsch, Meyer Leventhal, H. H. Lowenstein, M. A. Rosenberg, Sidney E. Samuelson, P. J. Wood and Nathan Yamins. Hugh W. Bruen and Robert H. Poole will be present as observers for the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners.

Iris Barry to Coast

Iris Barry, curator of the Museum of Modern Art film library, will leave New York for Hollywood Monday to survey and report on the use and production of non-theatrical films in wartime, for the Rockefeller Foundation. Miss Barry will be accompanied by Mary Morrissey, executive assistant to Col. John Hay Whitney, president of the Museum. Miss Barry and Miss Morrissey, who will represent Col. Whitney while on the Coast, will return in March.

Sufficient Time to Darken Marquees

(*Continued from page* 1)

utilities officials here yesterday, pursuant to instructions issued the night before by War Mobilization Director James Byrnes, to effect a saving in fuel also by reducing temperatures in public and commercial buildings and eliminating outdoor lighting.

Marquee lighting is specially designated on the prohibited list, as is outdoor decortaive and ornamental lighting, outdoor advertising, promotional and display lighting, show window lighting and "White Way" lighting in excess of the amount needed for safety. Theatres in the New York area and on the Atlantic Coast had been blacked out beginning in April, 1942, to eliminate any possible radiance which might have been of aid to enemy submarines, but with the lessening of that menace, the restrictions had been lifted, and theatres were permitted to turn on their outdoor electrical advertising under brown-out regulations.

It will be necessary to reduce overall consumption of coal by 25,000,000 tons during 1945. The elimination of lighted theatre marquees and advertising signs will save 2,000,000 tons annually, it is estimated.

L. V. Burrows Here For Raw Stock Talks

(*Continued from page* 1)

cut between the companies. Both officials have been engaged in a series of conferences with military and war agency officials since the last meeting of the industry advisory committee, which is to pass on the program for curtailing the consumption of companies before it is put into effect.

Monogram Foreign Sales Are Up 60%

(*Continued from page* 1)

he said. Ernest Wettstein, former sales representative in Paris for Continental Europe, is representing the company's interests until further clarification of the situation there. "Lady, Let's Dance" has been dubbed in French, but further dubbing in this language has been halted pending decision by the French government on how rigidly it will enforce its old dubbing laws.

Monogram expects to add more of its own branches to the one recently established in Mexico, but "we are not entirely changing our policy of doing business through local people," Ritchey said. Only where necessary, he indicated, will the company set up its own branches.

The foreign department will remove its present headquarters in the RKO Building to larger quarters in the Bond Building before March 1, Ritchey said, where it will have its own projection room, and also space for expansion.

Monogram's foreign department head plans to go to England and the Continent when travel conditions permit.

Disney's Shorts Win Herald's Best Poll

(*Continued from page* 1)

shorts were color cartoons, two were comedy subjects and only one, topical. The same five series which were first in 1943, repeated in the same order in 1944.

The first 10 in order follows: Walt Disney Cartoons, RKO, first; Bug Bunny Specials, Warners, second; Pete Smith Specialties, M-G-M, third; March of Time, 20th-Fox, fourth; Technicolor Cartoons, M-G-M, fifth; Merrie Melodies, Warners, sixth; Passing Parade, M-G-M, seventh; Speaking of Animals, Paramount, eighth; Popeye, Paramount, ninth; Technicolor Specials, Warners, tenth.

The next 15 winners were: Blue Ribbon Merrie Melodies, Warners; Fitzpatrick Traveltalks, M-G-M; Name Band Musicals, Universal; All Star Comedies, Columbia; Popular Science, Paramount; Terrytoons, 20th-Fox; Musical Parade, Paramount; This Is America, RKO; Miniatures, M-G-M; Little Lulu, Paramount; Community Sing, Columbia; Unusual Occupations, Paramount; George Pal Puppetoons, Paramount; Melody Master Bands, Warners; Leon Erroll, RKO.

Frawley Leaves Post

G. B. J. Frawley, Paramount executive, has retired as president of the New York Athletic Club after two terms. Frawley refused another term due to the fact that the club, to which several film company executives belong, has been restored to a strong financial status and because of pressure of his other duties.

MPA to Install Jan. 19

Motion Picture Associates will install 1945 officers at a luncheon at the Hotel Astor Jan. 19.

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 10 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1945 TEN CENTS

See Video Not Disturbed by Government

FCC Is Expected to Keep Present Megacycles

The Federal Communications Commission is expected to retain the present commercial television channels, below 100 megacycles, and allocate new channels for frequency-modulation, above 100 megacycles, dispossessing F-M from its present 40-50 megacycle channels, informed television quarters indicated here at the weekend.

The FCC's preliminary report on new frequency allocations for television, radio and communication services is expected to be handed down any day and industry executives point

(*Continued on page* 11)

Honor Film Men for 4-Million Tickets

The motion picture division of the New York City Defense Recreation Committee was honored by the main committee Friday at a luncheon at the 21 Club in tribute to the donation of more than 4,000,000 tickets to film theatres for servicemen and women.

The film division is headed by Harry Brandt, and includes Joseph Vogel and Charles Moskowitz, Loew's; Zeb Epstein, Strand; Robert Weitman, Paramount; Gus Eysell, Radio City Music Hall; Irving Lesser, Roxy; Monty Salmon, Rivoli; Stewart R. Martin, Newsreel Theatres. Others present were: Maj. Gen. T. A. Terry, Rear Admiral Monroe Kelly, Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg, Mrs. Julius Ochs Adler, co-chairman of the committee; John Golden and Capt. D. C. Patterson.

Jack Benny to Form Own Producing Unit

Jack Benny disclosed here that he is in New York to make arrangements to set up his own film production company and to participate in the March of Dimes campaign, at a press luncheon given in his honor by National Broadcasting at the Sherry Netherlands Hotel Friday.

It is understood that while the

(*Continued on page* 12)

Paramount to Have 29 Features This Year, Freeman Says

Paramount's production schedule for the current season calls for 22 features, including productions from Hal Wallis, B. G. DeSylva and Cecil B. DeMille, Y. Frank Freeman, Paramount vice-president and studio head, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Friday.

Y. Frank Freeman

In addition, the company will have six or seven features from the William Pine-William Thomas combination, for a total of 28 or 29 features this year. The number is equivalent to the company's schedule for last year.

Freeman said that Paramount's

(*Continued on page* 3)

Gillham Calls Para. Promotion Meeting

Paramount district advertising representatives and advertising-publicity directors of key theatres and circuits throughout the country will meet with home office executives next Friday and Saturday at the Hotel Pierre, here, to

(*Continued on page* 12)

Darken Marquees Ahead of Deadline

Washington, Jan. 14.—Within 48 hours after James F. Byrnes, Director of War Mobilization, ordered the 'brown out' of outdoor lighting, reports reached Washington from all sections that exhibitors are turning off their daytime display illumination and cutting marquee lighting up to 50 per cent or more, although it is probable that the formal order will not go into effect until Feb. 1.

WB Lists 19 Million Product Backlog

Warner Bros. had $19,260,982 in films completed but not released as of Aug. 31 last, and an additional $9,704,398 in product in production, the company's annual statement, currently released, discloses.

Sixteen films completed, but unreleased as of Aug. 31, included: "Arsenic and Old Lace," "The Doughgirls," "The Very Thought of You" and "To Have and Have Not," since released, and "Christmas in Connecticut," "Conflict," "Devotion," "My Reputation," "Rhapsody in Blue," "Saratoga Trunk," "The Animal Kingdom" and "The Horn Blows at Midnight." Among those in production were: "God Is My Co-Pilot," "Hollywood Canteen," "Objective Burma," "Of Human Bondage," "Roughly Speaking," and "The Corn Is Green."

AGVA-ites in War Plants To Save Stage Shows

Walsh to Open 'IA' Board Meet Today

Minneapolis, Jan. 14.—Richard F. Walsh, IATSE International president, will open the Mid-Winter week's meeting of the 'IA' executive board at the Hotel Nicollet here tomorrow.

The board is expected to decide whether the IATSE should issue charters to film salesmen and theatre managers groups which applied for them at the IATSE convention in St. Louis last May.

CHICAGO, Jan. 14.—Matt Shelvey, executive secretary of the American Guild of Variety Artists, stated here at the weekend that the actors' union hopes to forestall any action that might be taken in Washington to curtail stage entertainment in theatres or night clubs by making definite proposals to James F. Byrnes, War Mobilization director, to put in an average of 20 hours a week in defense plants, and to make an even greater contribution of talent to the USO.

AGVA plans to appoint a Washington representative to watch daily developments.

Shelvy admits entertainment might be pulled from combination-policy film theatres and night clubs.

Exempt Booth Equipment From Cutback

But Supplies for Front Of the House Dwindle

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—New sharp restrictions which are being imposed on civilian production by the War Production Board to release material, machinery and labor for more war production may make procurement of "front of the house" theatre supplies more difficult than in the immediate past, but will not affect the output of booth equipment, it is believed by Allen G. Smith, chief of the WPB theatre equipment section here.

While it is not believed that the program for the current quarter—411 projectors, 201 sound systems, 433 lamp houses and 413 rectifiers—will be curtailed, Smith said at the weekend that, in common with other industrial divisions of WPB, his office will keep actual production, beginning with the

(*Continued on page* 12)

Grainger Names 2 District Managers

CHICAGO, Jan. 14.—Promotion of Nat E. Steinberg and N. J. Colquhoun to Republic district sales managerships, was announced at the weekend by James R. Grainger, president, at the close of the company's three-day Mid-West regional sales meeting. Both had been branch managers, in

(*Continued on page* 12)

Schaefer Sees WPB Chiefs on Stock

George J. Schaefer, chairman of the War Activities Committee and industry raw stock liaison with the War Production Board, met here Friday with Stanley B. Adams, director of the consumers durable goods division of the WPB, and Lincoln V. Burrows, chief of the photographic section, for

(*Continued on page* 11)

Reviewed Today

Review of "Grissly's Millions" appears on page 6; "Crazy Knights," page 12.

Personal Mention

S. BARRET McCORMICK, RKO Radio advertising-publicity director, left Hollywood for New York Friday on the *Superchief*.

•

JOSEPH CURTIS (COHN), son of JACK COHN, vice-president of Columbia, is the father of a son, THOMAS FRANKLIN, born Friday in the Lenox Hill Hospital. CURTIS is in the Marine Corps.

•

CHARLES E. KESSNICK and RUDOLPH BERGER, Loew district managers in Atlanta and Washington, respectively, will arrive in New York Jan. 22.

•

CLYDE ECKHARDT, 20th-Fox branch manager in Los Angeles, is in Chicago to testify in the THOMAS MURRAY damage suit in Federal Court there.

•

ARTHUR GROOM, manager of Loew's State, and W. S. SAMUELS, manager of the Malco Circuit's Strand, both of Memphis, have reported for induction.

•

NATHAN E. GOLDSTEIN, president of Western Massachusetts Theatres, returned to Springfield from New York over the weekend.

•

H. A. ROSS, president of Ross Federal Service, is in New York following a three-week trip to Midwest and Southern offices.

•

LEOPOLD FRIEDMAN, general counsel and secretary of Loew's, will return to New York today from a Florida vacation.

•

EUGENE ATKINSON, business manager of projectionists union, local 110, Chicago, is vacationing until Jan. 30.

•

RUSSELL BIRDWELL, New York and Hollywood publicist, left New York for California over the weekend.

•

ROBERT ADLER, advertising manager of the Chakeres Circuit, Springfield, Ohio, is vacationing here.

•

JOHN BRAHM, United Artists director, will arrive in New York today from the Coast.

•

EDWARD SCHNITZER, United Artists home office executive, is visiting exchanges in the South.

•

RICHARD L. HAPGOOD, former Boston publicist and exploitation man, is now in China.

•

TOM GERETY, Loew editor of "Lion's Roar," is the father of a third child, a boy.

Kelly Back from Coast

Arthur Kelly, American representative of J. Arthur Rank's Eagle-Lion Films, has returned from the Coast, where he arranged for color prints of "Colonel Blimp," which United Artists will release.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

DESPITE statements to the contrary emanating from Washington during the past 10 days, it is not entirely certain that raw stock allocations to newsreels will be maintained at 1944 level. WPB officials first suggested that newsreel lengths be reduced from the 1944 standard of 750 feet to 650 and 500 feet during the current quarter. Already cut from their prewar footage of 900 to 1,000 feet, the reels have found it difficult on many occasions in the past year to do justice to the news footage available to them and, at the same time, accommodate special official messages and events within the 750-foot maximum. A further cut to 500 feet would make that next to impossible.

WPB officials next proposed fewer newsreel prints. It was pointed out that, in order to effect any appreciable saving of raw stock in this manner, newsreel contents would be "stale" before 50 per cent of the theatre accounts were serviced. However, there still remains expectancy, if not insistence, that raw stock savings be accomplished all down the line—with the reels to be excluded only in event the reduction of raw stock consumption specified for the industry can be realized in other directions.

•

There is no question but what the new reduction in raw stock confronts the industry with one of the most serious and far reaching problems which it has had to face since the start of the war. The effects of the new allocations will not be felt too severely during the current quarter, inasmuch as release printing of features set for distribution in this quarter was begun by almost all companies last month. The pinch will begin to hurt in March and will become progressively more painful for as long thereafter as the reduced allocations are continued.

The situation, naturally, has encouraged all those concerned with the problem to examine minutely, not to say critically, every maw into which American-made stock is fed. Why should Mexico and Brazil, some ask, continue to receive so much of our raw stock to fatten their film industries at the expense of the home industry? Why should Britain continue to receive so much? And why Russia? others ask.

The answers, in all cases, are not quite clear. In others, they make sense or, at least, indicate that the War Production Board, which has the unenviable task of taking raw stock away from the home industry, is both blameless for the need to do so and helpless to prevent its going outside the country. This would appear to be true in the case of raw stock supplies to Russia, which supplies are classified as *protocol*, which means they have been approved as "must" by the State Department, the War Department or the Administration.

The British Ministry of Information in New York contends that all raw stock obtained from this country is used for military or other strictly war purposes, and other British sources say that raw stock supplies from America have been made necessary in part by the release printing in England of the films of American distributors.

Little hope for an easing of the problem is pinned on probabilities of increased output of raw stock here, manpower and plant facilities being what they are. The prime avenue of relief would be a lessening of military requirements for raw stock and only an end of the war against Germany is likely to bring that about. Meanwhile, the industry would appear to be confronted with a disruption of releases first and production later.

• •

The latest issue of Warners' "Movies and Morale," a discussion guide and film appreciation publication distributed to approximately 12,000 educational and community groups as well as National Education Association units, made its appearance last week on behalf of the company's "Hollywood Canteen." Featuring articles by prominent educators, the publication is the work of Warners' Educational Bureau, established last year as part of Mort Blumenstock's home office advertising and publicity department. So acceptable has the publication become to the educational field that William G. Carr, secretary of the Educational Policies Committee of the NEA, said in a letter to Warners urging more frequent publication of the brochures, that they had been found so helpful it was to be hoped that all film companies would publish similar discussion guides on their important productions.

This would appear to be an opportunity which the industry could ill afford to ignore. It is not only an entree to the educational organizations whose cooperation will be most valuable should the industry undertake large-scale production and distribution of educational films after the war but also it is the field in which some of the most valuable work can be done in the way of winning new theatre patrons and new and influential friends for the motion picture.

Manta, Ross Form New Booking Corp.

CHICAGO, Jan. 14.—Alex Manta and Jack Ross, executives of Indiana-Illinois Theatres, have formed a separate booking-buying corporation to book for outside houses. Under the new arrangement, D. J. Chrissis, Indiana-Illinois vice-president, has been named president of that circuit, changing titles with Manta. Ross will continue as secretary-treasurer, and Al Raymer will remain booker and assistant buyer.

Ross, prior to his Indiana-Illinois partnership, had his own booking-buying circuit, and was film buyer for the James Coston booking circuit.

Espy Joins DeSylva As General Manager

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 14.—Reeves Espy has resigned as general manager of the Myron Selznick Agency, a post which he has held since Selznick's death, and will join the B. G. DeSylva production unit at Paramount as general manager tomorrow.

Espy, a former St. Louis sports writer, had been with the Skouras St. Louis circuit for 12 years, with Warners' Theatres and Fox West Coast Theatres, before joining Selznick.

2 Monogram Branches Get Profit Sharing

Monogram's 20 per cent profit sharing plan for employes in exchanges wholly operated by the company has been approved by the Government for workers making under $5,000 in the Philadelphia and New York exchanges.

The Treasury's Wage Stabilization Board and the WLB previously granted approval for the plan in the Washington exchange.

RKO Paid $546,136 For Blue Web Time

RKO Radio Pictures paid the Blue Network $546,136 for air time for its "Hollywood Star Time" radio program, which ran for 40-odd weeks during 1944 on a five-day-a-week, 15-minute basis, the Blue Network discloses.

Total gross network time sales for the Blue Network for 1944 was $41,356,129.

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Brunet in Some Run, Clearance Charge

R. J. Brunet, operating the Imperial Theatre, New Orleans, has filed a combination some-run, clearance complaint in the New Orleans tribunal against 20th-Fox, the American Arbitration Association reported here at the weekend.

Complainant charges that the defendant has refused to license pictures for his theatres except on terms and conditions calculated to defeat Section 6 of the consent decree. Further, complainant alleges, those pictures which are licensed to him have an unreasonable clearance imposed: 15 days after the Bell Theatres, and 75 days after the Arcade and Rivoli, all New Orleans.

Relief sought by complainant includes licensing of product in accordance with Section 6 and reduction in clearance in favor of the Arcade and Rivoli over the Bell to a period not to exceed 15 days so that complainant may play fourth run granted by 20th-Fox not more than 30 days after the Arcade and Rivoli.

The Arcade and Rivoli are operated by United Theatres, the Bell by Mortimore and Shiell.

NABET Complains to NLRB on Petrillo

The regional office of the National Labor Relations Board at the weekend was studying a complaint from the National Association of Broadcast Engineers and Technicians that two networks have refused to recognize the NABET as bargaining agent.

Refusal of such recognition by National Broadcasting and the Blue Network was blamed by the labor group on 'strike threats' made by James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians. Petrillo, it is alleged, refused to recognize the jurisdiction of the NLRB when, on Nov. 24, it certified NABET as bargaining agency.

Near Agreement on Newsreel Contract

Agreement is expected to be reached here this week between the newsreel companies and representatives of IATSE newsreel cameramen's Local No. 644, in New York, and Local 666, Chicago, on a new contract which has been in negotiation for several months.

Representatives have been meeting with Pat Casey, producers' labor contact, this week to iron out two stumbling blocks which are the IATSE's demand for severance pay and the newsreel companies' insistence upon making provision for 20 per cent of their camera staffs being apprentices.

30 Consuls to Attend PRC 'Lights' Preview

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 14.—More than 30 consuls of the United Nations will attend Tuesday's preview here of PRC's "When the Lights Go On Again."

Governors Robert O. Blood, New Hampshire; J. Melville Broughton, North Carolina, and Henry F. Schriker, Indiana, have designated "When the Lights Go On Again" week to commence on V-E Day.

45 WAC-OWI Films Made In 1944, Flinn Reports

Hollywood produced 45 films as its contribution to the War Activities Committee-Office of War Information film program for 1944, involving 12 studios, 24 producers, 13 directors, 30 writers and 57 players, the WAC reported at the weekend.

The figures are revealed in the annual report of the Hollywood division of War Activities issued by John C. Flinn, co-ordinator, for Mary C. McCall, Jr., chairman. The report will be officially presented to Francis S. Harmon, executive vice-chairman of WAC, at the annual luncheon meeting to be held today at Perino's restaurant, Hollywood.

At this meeting, the Hollywood WAC committee for 1944 will turn over its duties to the 1945 group headed by John Cromwell, chairman; Edward J. Mannix, vice-chairman, and Tom W. Baily, co-ordinator.

The new general committee includes: Bert Allenberg, Fred W. Beetson, Harry Brand, Trem Carr, Y. Frank Freeman, Emmet Lavery, George Murphy, Kenneth Thomson and Walter Wanger. Flinn remains on the executive board.

Following the installation, talks will be made by Taylor M. Mills, chief of the domestic motion picture bureau of the OWI; Ted R. Gamble, national director of the War Finance Division of the Treasury, and Harmon. Plans for 1945 will be discussed and a program of subjects outlined.

In his report, Flinn paid tributes to "the invaluable and ever-enthusiastic assistance of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Artists' Managers Guild, Association of Motion Picture Producers, California Theatre Council, Independent Motion Picture Producers Association, Hollywood Victory Committee, Hollywood Writers Mobilization, Public Information Committee, Screen Actors Guild, Screen Directors Guild, Screen Writers Guild and the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, and to Stanton Griffis, former chief of the OWI Bureau of Motion Pictures; his successor, Taylor M. Mills; George J. Schaefer, chairman, Herman Gluckman, treasurer and Harmon, executive vice-chairman of the WAC.

The films produced as a voluntary war effort and requested by various Governmental agencies varied from 50 to 2,000 feet and were made for the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Treasury Department, Red Cross, National War Fund, Women's Army Corps and others, the report said. Columbia, Lester Cowan, Walt Disney, M-G-M, Paramount, RKO-Radio, Republic, David O. Selznick, 20th Century-Fox, Universal, Walter Wanger and Warner Bros. produced them.

The subjects were released through the distributors' division of WAC to the 16,000 members of the theatre division.

Rules Out Evidence on Real Estate Losses

CHICAGO, Jan. 14.—The defense scored in the Thomas Murray $1,000,000 damage suit in Federal Court here Friday when Judge William Holly ruled out as evidence exhibits purporting to show the loss of the plaintiff's theater building due to his inability to secure a choice of product.

The judge stated that the plaintiff is entitled to recover loss sustained in his Thalia theatre due to alleged conspiracy on the part of the distributors and circuits.

See George Glass Slated for UA Post

It was widely reported in the trade at the weekend that George Glass, who will arrive in New York today from California, is slated to be appointed to the United Artists advertising-publicity department.

Efforts to reach Carl Leserman, UA general sales manager for comment were unsuccessful. Glass, a former publicity man for Samuel Goldwyn, has represented Andrew Stone and other United Artists producers on the West Coast.

Pollack Receives Gift

Associates of Lou Pollack presented him with a gold pen and pencil set on his leaving the United Artists advertising-publicity directorship on Friday.

Monogram Sets Deals

The Varbalow circuit, operating 22 theatres in New Jersey, and Alpine Theatres, comprising five houses in West Virginia, have bought Monogram's 1944-45 program.

Paramount to Have 29, Freeman Says

(*Continued from page 1*)

backlog of completed pictures has been reduced and may be further reduced during 1945, indicating that releases for the current season may exceed in numbers the new production schedule. Data on the present and prospective backlog are being prepared by Freeman and may be made public today.

Freeman views the impending industry raw stock cut as potentially the most serious wartime problem to confront the industry to date. While asserting that its full effects could not be anticipated at this juncture, and that the problems it entailed would have to be met as they arose, Freeman said it was entirely possible that the proposed raw stock reduction could dislocate production schedules. Freeman will remain in New York until the end of this week.

Universal Officials in Coast Product Talks

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 14.—William A. Scully, Universal vice-president and general sales manager, and Joseph H. Seidelman, president of Universal International, will arrive here from New York tomorrow to confer with president Nate Blumberg and with Cliff Work, vice-president and general manager in charge of production, on the company's preliminary program for next season. John Joseph, director of advertising, publicity and exploitation, and Maurice A. Bergman, Eastern advertising-publicity manager, will take part in the discussions.

Seidelman will be on the Coast three weeks and will then visit Mexico.

Mary Pickford Starts 2nd Annual Tour For March of Dimes

Mary Pickford arrived in New York Saturday from the Coast to make her second annual tour in behalf of the March of Dimes drive, which opens officially today and runs through Jan. 31. The industry's drive in theatres will start Jan. 25.

Miss Pickford, chairman of the national women's division of the National Infantile Paralysis Foundation, will be in Hartford, tomorrow to address workers and to open the "Mile of Dimes" in the city. From there she will go to New Haven and Bridgeport, returning to New York on Wednesday for a luncheon-meeting of the Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations at the Hotel Astor. Other stops scheduled include Washington, Thursday; Richmond, Friday; Cincinnati, Saturday; Minneapolis and St. Paul, Jan. 22; Des Moines, Jan. 23; Toledo, Jan. 25; Syracuse, Jan. 26, and Philadelphia, Jan. 27. Miss Pickford will broadcast from the White House with Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Margaret O'Brien and Helen Gahagan Douglas on Jan. 18.

'Dimes' Publicity Meet Here Tomorrow

An industry publicity committee meeting of The March of Dimes will be held at War Activities headquarters tomorrow, with Harry Mandel, New York Metropolitan area public relations chairman, and Edward C. Dowden, New York City publicity chairman, officiating. Plans for the campaign will be discussed.

To Entertain for 'Dimes'

Jack Benny, Bob Hope, Margaret O'Brien, Ed Wynn, Joan Edwards, Jose Iturbi and others will participate in a benefit performance for March of Dimes campaign at Carnegie Hall here, Saturday evening, Jan. 20.

French Production Halted at Weekend

PARIS, Jan. 14.—Jean Painleve, film division director of the French Ministry of Information, announced late last week that production would be forced to shut down completely at the weekend because American camouflage units suddenly had requisitioned the few remaining stocks of plywood, glue and plaster necessary for sets.

At the same time theatre operators revealed that the government had imposed a new 18 per cent tax on gross receipts. Following a meeting, the operators issued a joint announcement, declaring all theatres in Paris would close beginning Saturday unless the tax were lowered or they were permitted to boost ticket prices, which at present are frozen.

Seiden Reopens Studios

Joseph Seiden has reopened his Cinema Studios in Palisade, N. J., for theatrical work, after temporary suspension, during which he engaged in the manufacture of recording equipment for the Air Force. The studio is currently being rented by the March of Time.

RINGER!
RADIO CITY
MUSIC HALL
NATIONAL VELVET
M·G·M

NEW ALL-TIME CHAMP OF THE MUSIC HALL!

Join March of Dimes!—Jan. 25 to 31

$171,000 for 'Princess' in 7 Weeks in Chi.

CHICAGO, Jan. 14.—Snow and cold hit all but the strong holdovers in the Loop this week. The leader continues to be "The Princess and the Pirate," which has grossed almost $150,000 in its first six weeks and attracted another $21,000 in the seventh. "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" and "Can't Help Singing" are holding up well, too.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 11:

"The Very Thought of You" (WB)
APOLLO—(1,200) (55c-85c-95c) 3rd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $11,400).
"And Now Tomorrow" (Para.)
CHICAGO—(3,850) (55c-85c-95c) 3rd week. On stage: Dinning Sisters and revue. Gross: $40,000. (Average: $51,500).
"Barbary Coast Gent" (M-G-M)
DOWNTOWN — (1,800) (44c-55c-85c-95c) 2nd Loop run. On stage: Lil Green and Eddie Heywood and orchestra. Gross: $12,000.
"Irish Eyes Are Smiling" (20th-Fox)
GARRICK—(1,000) (55c-65c-85c-95c) 3rd Loop week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,-100).
"House of Frankenstein" (Univ.)
"The Mummy's Curse" (Univ.)
GRAND—(1,250) (50c-65c-85c-95c). Gross: $14,000. (Average: $9,100).
"Dark Waters" (UA)
ORIENTAL — (3,200) (44c-55c-85c-95c). On stage: Ina Ray Hutton and band. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $24,000).
"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
"Enter Arsene Lupin" (Univ.)
PALACE—(2,500) (55c-65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $27,000. (Average: $24,000).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
ROOSEVELT—(1,500) (55c-65c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $24,000. Average: $20,000).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
STATE LAKE—(2,700) (55c-65c-95c) 3rd week. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $29,000).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,700) (50c-65c-95c) 3rd week. Gross: $29,000. (Average: $25,-000).
"The Princess and the Pirate" (RKO)
WOODS—(1,200) (55c-65c-95c) 7th week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $10,000). Sixth week's gross of "The Princess and the Pirate" reported here last week was underestimated; the final total for that week is $28,700).

Providence Strong, 'Canteen' Is Tops

PROVIDENCE, Jan. 14.—Business continues strong, despite a seven-inch snowstorm. "Hollywood Canteen" was tops, comparatively, with $15,000 for its second week at the Majestic.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 11:

"Princess and the Pirate" (RKO)
"Falcon in Hollywood" (RKO)
RKO - ALBEE — (2,239) (35c-44c-60c) 8 days, 3rd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $12,800).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
STRAND — (2,200) (44c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,500).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,232) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,500. (Average: $17,700).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
MAJESTIC—(2,250) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $12,-100).
"Bowery to Broadway" (Univ.)
"The Town Went Wild" (PRC)
CARLTON—(1,526) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days, 3rd week, on a moveover from the Majestic. Gross: $3,700. (Average: $4,000).
"Laura" (20th-Fox)
FAY'S—(1,800) (35c-44c-60c) 7 days; previously did five weeks downtown. On stage: June Lorraine, Gonzales Sisters, Eddie Shine, Land and Lee, Bobby Henshaw, Ora May Diamond. Gross: $7,400. (Average: $6,500).
"Adventures of Kitty O'Day" (Mono.)
METROPOLITAN—(3,050) (44c-60c-75c) 3 days. On stage: Patsy Kelly, Barry Wood, Mal Hallett's orchestra. Gross: $4,000. (Average, $6,900).

Review

"Grissly's Millions"

(Republic)

A MYSTERY film that emerges as satisfactory entertainment by virtue of an interesting situation and its air of suspense has been produced in "Grissly's Millions." John English's deft direction of Muriel Roy Bolton's screenplay also has the advantage of competent performances by Paul Kelly and Virginia Grey and a host of character players, including Don Douglas, Elisabeth Risdon, Robert H. Barrat, Clem Bevans, Eily Malyon and Francis Pierlot, among others.

The story concerns patriarch Robert Barrat, waiting to die, and his relatives waiting to come into possession of his vast fortune. Miss Grey, his granddaughter, is watching over him in his last days when Paul Fix, her estranged husband, returns to blackmail her, but is killed by the old man, who also succumbs. Coming upon this tragic scene, and fearing she will be implicated, she conceals her husband's body in the same coffin with her grandfather's remains, at the suggestion of Don Douglas, a lawyer. Paul Kelly, an investigator, appears, in pursuit of her dead husband. When it is revealed that the old man has been poisoned, suspicion fastens upon Miss Grey, who has meanwhile received the entire inheritance. She confesses her action to Kelly, when she realizes her grandfather's body will be exhumed and the body of her husband also discovered. Kelly rescues her after an attempt upon her life, and they bait a trap for the real murderer who is revealed as Miss Risdon, an aunt. Walter H. Goetz was associate producer.

Running time, 71 minutes. "G."* Release date, Jan. 16.

CHARLES RYWECK

*"G" denotes general classification.

'Parkington' and 'Creek' Run Over

TORONTO, Jan. 14.—"Frenchman's Creek" maintained popularity at Shea's with $12,800 in sight for the second week in the face of cold and stormy weather. "Together Again" promised $13,800 at the Imperial, while the second week of "Mrs. Parkington" looks like $12,200 at Loew's. "Can't Help Singing," in its second week at the Uptown, indicated $9,800.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 12:

"Two Girls and a Sailor" (M-G-M)
EGLINTON — (1,086) (18c-30c-48c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $3,500. (Average: $4,000).
"Together Again" (Col.)
IMPERIAL — (3,373) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days. Gross: $13,800. (Average: $12,800).
"Mrs. Parkington" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S — (2,074) (18c-30c-42c-60c-78c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,200. (Average: $11,200).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
SHEA'S — (2,480) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $12,800. (Average: $12,800).
"One Mysterious Night" (Col.)
"Irish Eyes Are Smiling" (20th-Fox) (Transferred.)
TIVOLI — (1,434) (12c-30c-48c) 6 days. Gross: $3,900. (Average: $4,400).
"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,761) (18c-30c-42c-60c-90c) 6 days, 2nd week. Gross: $9,800. (Average: $9,800).

'One Body' Beats Norm By $4,800

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 14.—The $16,-000 for "One Body Too Many" and a stage show at the Circle will lead gross receipts here this week. "Frenchman's Creek" at the Indiana expects $14,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 9-13:

"One Body Too Many" (Para.)
CIRCLE—(2,800) (55c-70c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $11,800).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
INDIANA—(3,200) (32c-55c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $11,600).
"Strangers in the Night" (Rep.)
KEITH'S—(1,500) (60c) 4 days. Gross: $4,500. (Average: $5,000).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S—(2,800) (35c-55c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $11,500).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
LYRIC—(2,000) (32c-55c) 7 days, on a moveover from the Indiana. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $4,900).

Average Is $21,700, 'Tokyo' Gets $31,000

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 14.—"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" held the lead for the second week at the Penn with an estimated gross of $31,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 8-12:

"Lake Placid Serenade" (Rep.)
FULTON—(1,700) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days. 2nd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $8,-500).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
J. P. HARRIS—(2,200) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,000).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
PENN—(3,400) (40c-55c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $31,000. (Average: $21,700).
"And Now Tomorrow" (Para.)
RITZ—(1,100) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,000).
"Reckless Age" (Univ.)
"Sergeant Mike" (Col.)
SENATOR—(1,750) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $3,200. (Average: $3,000).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
STANLEY—(3,800) (40c-55c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $26,000. (Average: $22,-000).
"Master Race" (RKO)
WARNER—(2,000) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,450).

'Guest' Is Best in Quiet Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 14.—With holdovers at four houses it looked like average business for most theatres.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 11:

"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
"Dancing in Manhattan" (Col.)
WISCONSIN—(3,200) (50c-80c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $14,-000).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
"Tahiti Nights" (Col.)
PALACE—(2,400) (50c-80c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $11,500).
"Something for the Boys" (20th-Fox)
"Lost in a Harem" (M-G-M)
STRAND—(1,400) (50c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $3,000. (Average: $4,500).
"House of Frankenstein" (Univ.)
"The Mummy's Curse" (Univ.)
ALHAMBRA—(1,900) (50c-80c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $10,000).
"Guest in the House" (UA)
RIVERSIDE—(2,700) (50c-80c) 7 days. Ray Eberle and other acts on stage. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $15,000).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
WARNER—(2,400) (50c-80c) 7 days. 2nd week. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $14,000).

'Guest' Opens on a $20,000 Upturn

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 14.—Only one new bill hit the screens here this week. The first seven days of "Guest in the House," at the United Artists, grossed $20,000. Business, with holdovers and second runs, was strong.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 10-12:

"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
"Murder in the Blue Room" (Univ.)
ORPHEUM—(2,440) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $15,-000).
"Guest in the House" (UA)
"Hi! Beautiful" (Univ.)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,200) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $14,-500).
"Belle of the Yukon" (RKO)
GOLDEN GATE—(2,850) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $25,500. (Average: $27,000).
"Murder in the Big House" (WB)
WARFIELD—(2,680) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days. Stage: vaudeville. Gross: $28,500. (Average: $25,000).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
PARAMOUNT — (2,700) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $22,500. (Average: $20,000).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
FOX—(5,000) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $28,000. (Average: $28,000).
" 'Till We Meet Again" (Para.)
STATE—(2,308) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $13,000).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
"Adventures of Kitty O'Day" (Mono.)
ST. FRANCIS—(1,400) (45c-65c-85c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $12,000).

Long's Blues and 'Blues' Get $20,100

OMAHA, Jan. 14.—It looked as if everyone here decided to go to a theatre at once this week. The Orpheum, beginning a new stage show season, collected $20,100 for Johnny Long's band on stage and "Carolina Blues" on the screen.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 11-12:

"Experiment Perilous" (RKO)
"Minstrel Man" (PRC)
BRANDEIS—(1,200) (44c-60c) 6 days. Gross: $8,400. (Average: $6,500).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
OMAHA—(2,000) (44c-60c) 7 days, 2nd week, on a moveover from the Paramount. Gross: $8,500. (Average: $8,400).
"Carolina Blues" (Col.)
ORPHEUM—(3,000) (44c-60c-70c) 7 days. Johnny Long's band on the stage. Gross: $20,100. (Average: $14,900).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
PARAMOUNT—(2,900) (44c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $14,100. (Average: $11,700).

'Tokyo' Beats Drum For $5,500 Take

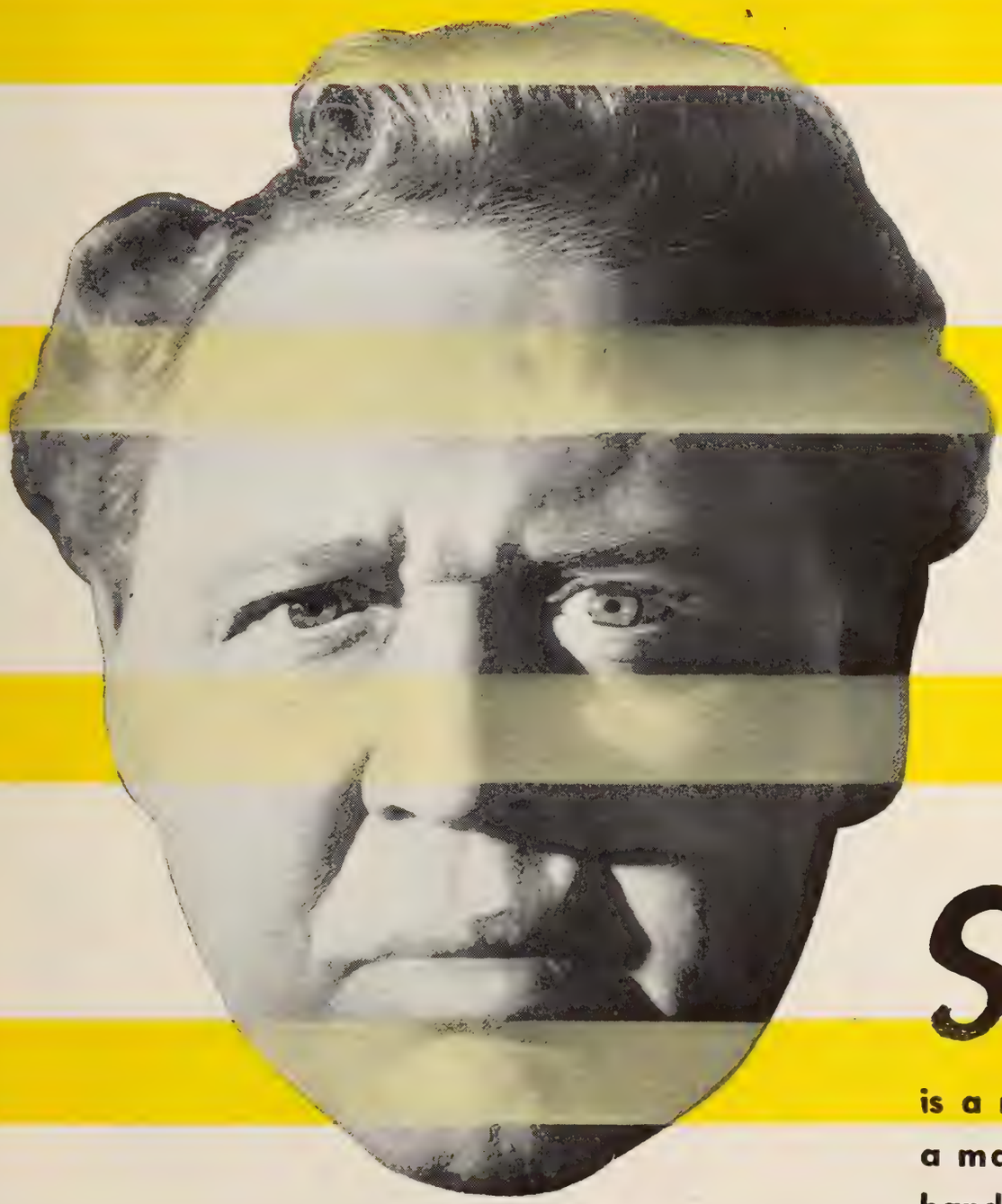
KANSAS CITY, Jan. 14.—"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" at the Midland continued to draw excellent crowds in its second week, taking $19,500. Weather was disagreeable all week.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 9-12:

"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
ESQUIRE—(800) (45c-65c) 2nd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $9,400).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
MIDLAND—(3,000) (40c-60c) 2nd week. Gross: $19,500. (Average: $14,000).
"And Now Tomorrow" (Para.)
NEWMAN—(1,900) (46c-65c) 2nd week. Gross: $13,500. (Average: $10,000).
"Experiment Perilous" (RKO)
"Girl Rush" (RKO)
ORPHEUM—(1,900) (45c-65c) 2nd week. Gross: $12,000. (Average: $10,000).
"Lights of Old Santa Fe" (Rep.)
"Firebrands of Arizona" Rep.)
TOWER—(2,000) (39c-60c) 7 days. Stage show. Gross: $10,500. (Average: $9,400).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
UPTOWN—(2,000) (45c-65c) 2nd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $5,600).
FAIRWAY—(700) (45c-65c) 2nd week. Gross: $2,000. (Average: $1,600).

"'The SUSPECT' looks like SMASH BOX OFFICE!"

—*Variety*



The SUSPECT

is a motion picture about a matter that every husband and every wife are keenly interested in but never talk about.

See it. You'll understand . .

PRINTED IN U. S. A.

A FLAWLESS CINEMA . . . A SUPERB THRILLER . . . ONE OF THE FINEST

CHERCHEZ LA FEMME!

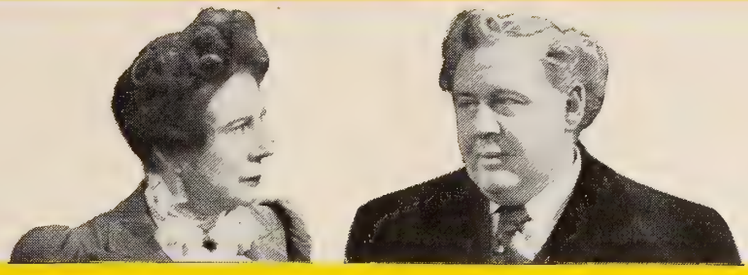
GUARANTEED TO HAVE EVERY AUDIENCE HOLDING ITS BREATH . .

GRIPPING SCREEN STORY . . . . . A NEW

EXCELLENT . . . . . .

SUSPENSEFUL . . . . .

CHARACTERIZATIONS OF LAUGHTON'S CAREER . . . *(Motion Picture Daily)*



ELLA RAINES' BEST PERFORMANCE TO DATE . . . *(Hollywood Reporter)*

AUGHTON . . . . . AN IMPECCABLE PERFORMANCE . . . *(Variety)*

. . . . . A PICTURE OF UNUSUAL QUALITY . . . *(Motion Picture Herald)*

STRONGLY DRAMATIC . . . LAUGHTON'S BEST PORTRAYAL . . . *(Daily Variety)*

An Endorsement

Universal believes "The Suspect" is a fine motion picture in the tradition of exciting melodrama.

We also believe there is a very large audience at the moment for this type of motion picture.

You owe it to yourselves to have the nearest Universal exchange screen "The Suspect" for you.

When you see it you will realize its box-office possibilities, and you should also be eager after seeing it to give it the support that it deserves.

Robert Siodmak, who directed "Christmas Holiday," again turns in a very fine job. Ella Raines, whose popularity is mounting with each picture, is exceptionally good, and Charles Laughton, of course, gives his usual masterful performance.

Charles LAUGHTON · *Ella* RAINES

in

THE SUSPECT

with DEAN HARENS

STANLEY C. RIDGES · HENRY DANIELL · ROSALIND IVAN

Screen Play by Bertram Millhauser · Adaptation by Arthur T. Horman from a novel by James Ronald

Directed by ROBERT SIODMAK · Produced by ISLIN AUSTER · A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

UNIVERSAL PICTURES

'Woman' Survives in Cleveland's Snow

CLEVELAND, Jan. 14.—Heavy snow and icy streets hit theatre attendance hard, but "Woman in the Window" survived, with a very big week-end, looking to a $24,500 week. "Hollywood Canteen" made an excellent second week's showing at the Allen with an estimated $11,500.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 11:

"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
ALLEN—(3,000) (45c-55c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $11,500. (Average: $8,500).

"The Woman in the Window" (RKO)
WARNERS' HIPPODROME—(3,500) (45c-55c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $24,500. (Average: $22,100).

"The Very Thought of You" (Warner)
WARNERS' LAKE—(714) (45c-55c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross $2,700. (Average: $3,200).

"Kismet" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S OHIO—(1,268) (45c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,000).

"The Princess and the Pirate" (RKO)
RKO PALACE—(3,300) (50c-60c-85c-90c) 7 days, 2nd week. New stage show: Mills Bros., Jean Parker, Cliff Nazarro. Gross: $24,000. (Average: $25,400).

"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STATE—(3,300) (45c-65c) 5 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $19,000).

"Maisie Goes to Reno" (M-G-M)
LOEW'S STILLMAN—(1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $10,000).

Mrs. Rosenberg Talks At 'Name' Screening

Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, Regional Director of the War Manpower Commission, speaking at a special screening at Paramount's home office, of "What's Your Name?" made at the request of the War Department to stimulate war labor recruiting said at the weekend that recent military events have changed war labor and production requirements.

"I know of no way of bringing home the war need any better than visually, through the screen," she said.

This film was produced by Army Pictorial Service, and will be distributed nationally by 20th Century-Fox beginning Jan. 18, for the War Activities Committee.

Clark Brown of Para. Law Department Dies

Clark T. Brown, tax expert and member of the Paramount legal department, was found dead last Friday at the Coast Guard base at Staten Island. Brown, who was 42, had been with Paramount since 1935, and during the past year had served voluntarily at least one day weekly with the Coast Guard.

He is survived by his widow, a son and daughter.

May Restore Tax

NASHVILLE, Jan. 14.—A bill to permit Hamilton County, which includes the city of Chattanooga, to restore the privilege tax on theatres, has been proposed in the state legislature. The legislation would cost theatres at least $12,000 annually. It was proposed by County Judge Wiley O. Couch.

Griggs Publicity Head

LONDON, Jan. 14.—Jack Graggs has been named publicity director of Pathe Pictures, Ltd., Monogram representative for the British Isles. He succeeds E. Lindsay Shankland.

Television Is Expected to Keep Present Channels

(Continued from page 1)

out that the trend at the recent FCC hearings on new allocations indicated an FCC intention of permitting television to go ahead on the basis of the present 525-line images and retain its present frequencies with certain modifications.

Should these indications crystallize it will mark a victory for manufacturers of television sets, who have repeatedly contended that their manufacture will prove a tremendous aid to employment in postwar reconversion plans, it is pointed out. Moving television to higher frequencies, as advocated by Columbia Broadcasting, and others, would necessitate a period of experimentation with the new frequencies.

Plans for the film industry's participation in television have also been predicated to a large extent upon the FCC retaining television in its present frequencies. RKO Television Corp., which is now producing television programs for a few clients, experimentally, is expected to launch a widespread campaign for clients with the fixing of television frequencies and the elimination of uncertainties that have hung over the industry for the past six months. Paramount, which has the greatest financial stake to date in the future of television of any of the film companies, through DuMont, will probably accelerate its plans to provide radio relay links to make inter-city theatre television possible.

Warners and Loew's have applied to the FCC for permission to build experimental television stations and might now consider some commitments with one of the manufacturers for equipment; 20th Century-Fox has an indirect interest in Scophony through General Precision Equipment and might be expected to indicate further plans when the allocations are no longer a matter of speculation.

The FCC's new frequency allocations are awaited in every quarter of television and affiliated industries since retention of present television frequencies would provide a 'go ahead' signal for continuing the mapping of postwar plans announced to date.

RCA is known to have developed a new television receiver which, it is said, provides a good picture on the present 525-line screen, but has delayed showing the set to the press and public until the FCC has ruled on allocations. Several press representatives did see the set at an election night party held by Niles Trammell, NBC president, but there has been no formal unveiling.

Ferguson Is Host to Exploiteers, Press

William Ralston Ferguson, M-G-M exploitation director, was host at a weekend luncheon at the Hotel Astor, here, to three visiting field exploiteers and members of the trade press. Present were exploiteers Norman Linz, Indianapolis; Charles C. Deardourf, oldest M-G-M exploiteer in point of service, from Cleveland, and J. E. Watson, Cincinnati. Others present were: William Ornstein, M-G-M trade press contact; Al Steen, James Cunningham, Chet Friedman, R. W. Baremore, Tom Kennedy, James Jerauld and Mel Konecoff.

The exploiteers are the first of 34 who will visit the home office, in threes, each for a week, to observe functionings and to hear Ferguson detail promotional plans.

Ban 'Women in Bondage'

Monogram's "Women in Bondage," an anti-Hitler film, has been banned by the Argentine government after prolonged negotiations by the company to secure approval for the film. Monogram is understood to have been willing to submit to considerable cutting, but Argentine censors remained adamant.

Austrian to Speak to CIA

Ralph B. Austrian, vice-president of RKO Television Corp., will address the Cincinnati Industrial Advertisers Club on Tuesday on the subject of "Television—It's Effect on Advertising and Public Relations."

Myers En Route to Coast

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 14.—Bob Myers, discharged from the Marine Corps, is enroute to the Coast to rejoin the Los Angeles office of the Associated Press as a Hollywood studio reporter.

Hirschmann Against Overselling Video

Ira Hirschmann, vice-president of Metropolitan Television, Inc., told the American Television Society at the Museum of Modern Art at the weekend that there is danger of overselling television in its preliminary stage.

Wyllis Cooper, program manager of Compton Advertising, Inc., seconded Hirschmann, saying all of television at first will be in motion pictures, since so far no other method for introducing the required editing has been devised.

Hochfield, Ferguson, Wright Reelected

Harry Hochfield, Robert Ferguson and Charles Wright have been unanimously elected to the offices of president, first vice-president and treasurer, respectively, of the Screen Publicists Guild, here.

Results of the contests between Vivian Moses and Al Hirsch, for second vice-president, and Charles Cohen and Fred Hodgson, for secretary, will not be determined until after the tabulation of service men's ballots, the deadline for which is Feb. 10.

Velez Left $150,000

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 14.—The will of Lupe Velez, produced at the weekend, provided for disposition of an estate valued at $150,000. Mrs. Beulah B. Kinder, the actress's secretary and executor of the will, was left one-third with the remainder to be divided equally between Miss Velez's mother and the children of her brother.

To Film Velez Life

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 14.—The life of the late Lupe Velez is being prepared for early production here by Alberto Santander.

CBS Affiliates Hear Video, FM Reports

Television, frequency - modulation and sustaining program plans for the coming year were discussed by Columbia Broadcasting's affiliates' advisory board at its meeting at CBS headquarters here at the weekend.

Douglas Coulter, network vice-president in charge of programs, outlined plans for sustaining shows; William B. Lodge, director of engineering, spoke on television and F-M. A preview of the seventh series of listening area studies conducted by CBS was given by John Churchill, director of research.

Among those who attended were: C. T. Lucy, John M. Rivers, Arthur B. Church, Clyde Coombs, Franklin Doolittle, Leo Fitzpatrick, I. R. Lounsberry, C. W. Rembert and W. H. Summerville of the affiliates board, and CBS officials Paul W. Kesten, Joseph H. Ream, Frank K. White, Herbert V. Akerberg, William C. Gittinger, Howard Lane and William A. Schudt, Jr., besides those mentioned above.

Mark Fifth Year of Television Network

Miles Trammell, NBC president, and William S. Hedges, vice-president in charge of stations, spoke on a special television program carried by NBC's WNBT, New York, and General Electric's WRGB, Schenectady, last Friday night, observing the fifth anniversary of the first television network to be operated as a public service.

The network linking the two stations was established in 1940 when GE began operation of its relay station atop Helderberg mountain, linking it with WNBT.

Schaefer Sees WPB Chiefs on Stock

(Continued from page 1)

general discussion of the WPB's raw stock reduction plan.

It is understood that arrangements will be made for the holding of a meeting in Washington between the industry's advisory committee and WPB officials in about two weeks.

Adams and Burrows visited the U. S. Signal Corps production studios in Astoria Saturday and left New York thereafter.

It is understood the companies have been requested by the WPB not to hold meetings on the raw stock situation unless a WPB or some other Government official is present.

'Lady' Premiere Set

"The Fighting Lady," feature documentary, in color, produced by Louis De Rochemont and being released by 20th Century-Fox in conjunction with the United States Navy, will have its premiere here Wednesday at the Victoria Theatre. Lt. Robert Taylor, USNR, did the commentary. A percentage of profits will go to Navy Relief.

Altec Signs Meiselman

The H. B. Meiselman circuit has signed Altec Service Corp. to service its Atlanta district theatres.

Production on Coast Spurts To 40 Filming

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 14.—Production continues its upward trend as eight new features go before the cameras, and six others to the cutting rooms. The shooting index rose to 40, compared with 38 a week ago. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Started: "Over 21," with Irene Dunne, Alexander Knox, Charles Coburn, Jeff Donnell, Loren Tindall; "Ten Cents a Dance," with Jane Frazee, Jimmy Lloyd, John Calvert, Robert Scott, Joan Woodbury, Dorothea Kent.

Shooting: "The Fighting Guardsman," "A Thousand and One Nights."

M-G-M

Finished: "The Hidden Eye," "Hold High the Torch."

Started: "Yolanda and the Thief," with Fred Astaire, Lucille Bremer, Frank Morgan, Leon Ames, Mildred Natwick; "The Harvey Girls," with Judy Garland, Ann Sothern, John Hodiak, Edward Arnold, Ray Bolger, Virginia O'Brien, Selena Royle, Marjorie Main, Mary Mullen.

Shooting: "Her Highness and the Bellboy," "Weekend at the Waldorf."

Monogram

Started: "Stranger from Santa Fe," with Johnny Mack Brown, Raymond Hatton, Beatrice Gray, Jack Ingram, Ray Elder.

Shooting: "Docks of New York."

Paramount

Finished: "The Virginian," "The Lost Weekend," "The Affairs of Susan."

Shooting: "Masquerade in Mexico," "Too Good to Be True."

PRC

Started: "Enchanted Forest," with Edmund Lowe, Brenda Joyce, Harry Davenport, Billy Severn, John Litel; untitled Buster Crabbe film, with Buster Crabbe, Al St. John, Sidney Logan.

Shooting: "The Phantom of 42nd Street."

RKO Radio

Shooting: "Those Endearing Young Charms," "Johnny Angel," "The Spanish Main," "Invisible Army," "Along Came Jones" (International).

Republic

Shooting: "New Faces of 1945," "The Fatal Witness," "Road to Alcatraz," "Return at Dawn."

20th Century-Fox

Shooting: "State Fair," "Colonel Effingham's Raid," "A Bell for Adano," "Captain Eddie."

United Artists

Finished: "A Walk in the Sun" (Bronston).

Shooting: "Paris—Underground" (Bennett); "Story of G.I. Joe" (Cowan); "Guest Wife" (Skirball-Manning).

Universal

Shooting: "Senorita from the West," "A Night in Paradise," "That's the Spirit."

Warners

Started: "Three Strangers," with Geraldine Fitzgerald, Sydney Greenstreet, Peter Lorre.

Shooting: "Mildred Pierce," "This Love of Ours," "Hotel Berlin," "The Big Sleep."

Review

"Crazy Knights"

(*Monogram*)

BILLY GILBERT, Shemp Howard and "Slapsie Maxie" Rosenbloom follow up their initial collective comic effort, "Three of a Kind," with an equally rollicking farce, rather ineptly titled "Crazy Knights." The trio clicks again; for devotees of slapstick, this is highly satisfactory. A full house here enjoyed it thoroughly, responding to each crazy antic and gesture with hilarity. Tim Ryan, who also wrote the screenplay, is in fine fettle as a bungling private detective. There is also a gorilla to foul-up the proceedings and add to the general confusion.

The story wavers between riotous comedy scenes and spine-chilling sequences in cemeteries and secret passages. Gilbert, Howard and Rosenbloom are inadvertently projected into the center of a mystery. With Bernie Sell and Tay Dunn, the boys attempt to get to the bottom of strange goings-on—ghosts, queer voices, etc.—in the Gardner House. It resolves itself into a "gay" murder story, believe it or not, as Dunn, whom nobody liked anyhow, is found dead.

William Beaudine directed; Sam Katzman and Jack Dietz produced; Barney Sarecky was associate.

Running time, 63 minutes. "G."* Release date, Dec. 8.

HELEN MCNAMARA

"G" denotes general classification.

Booth Equipment Exempt in Cutback

(*Continued from page* 1)

coming quarter, at the level of the final quarter in 1944, when 335 projectors, 156 sound systems, 365 lamp houses and 360 rectifiers were scheduled.

Smith explained that booth equipment enjoys an AA-2X rating, one of the highest assigned, and is considered so important that production will be curtailed only as a last resort. So far, he said, only a few programs of this priority have been affected, although practically all programs with lower ratings will be cut back.

The virtual elimination of the spot-authorization program, under which labor and material that could be released from the war program were to be turned to the production of civilian goods, will not affect the booth equipment situation, since only one or two such projects have been authorized, mostly of a minor character, he said.

Less Optimism Elsewhere

In other quarters, however, less optimism was displayed regarding the future of any program consuming the metals which will be needed for the greatly expanded war production now getting under way. Copper, steel and aluminum are the three major metals for which demands will be greatest, it was said. Booth equipment and war products use them.

However, it was pointed out, large supplies of these and other needed materials will be made available by the rescinding of spot authorizations and the cutting back of consumer programs which had been enlarged in anticipation of an easier supply and labor situation, and it is not generally considered likely that the production of essential industrial goods, such as booth equipment, will be slashed.

Cobian, 20th Sign

Twentieth-Fox and Ramos Cobian, Puerto Rican exhibitor, who is also operating the Ernesto Smith circuit of Cuba, have signed a franchise for 1944-45 for the Cuban houses.

Grainger Names 2 District Managers

(*Continued from page* 1)

St. Louis and Dallas, respectively; their promotions were made to afford greater concentration for all district sales managers, Grainger said.

Steinberg's territory will include St. Louis, Kansas City, Des Moines and Omaha; with Colquhoun assigned to Dallas, Memphis and Oklahoma City.

The Midwestern sales district, under Will Baker, will now comprise Chicago, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and Minneapolis; Merritt Davis, Southern sales manager, will now cover Atlanta, Charlotte, New Orleans and Tampa; Maxwell Gillis, Eastern sales manager, will cover New York, Philadelphia and Washington; Sam Seplowin, Central sales manager, will cover Detroit, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Pittsburgh; Jack Davis, New England sales manager, will handle Boston, New Haven, Buffalo and Albany; Francis Bateman, Western sales manager, will cover Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Salt Lake City and Denver.

Yates, Others Arrive

Herbert Yates, chairman of the board; William Saal, executive assistant, and Allen Wilson, studio vice-president, all arrived on the Coast over the weekend for the last sales conference, on Jan. 22-23 at the studio. Edward Walton, assistant general sales manager, Grainger and Walter L. Titus, Jr., executive assistant in charge of branch operations, are in Kansas City, prior to leaving for the Coast.

The Chicago meeting was attended by all district sales managers and by the following branch managers: Winfield Snelson, Atlanta; Harold Laird, Tampa; J. H. Dillon, Charlotte; L. V. Seicshnaydre, New Orleans; Lew H. Andrews, Memphis; Glen Alt, Oklahoma City; William Feld, Des Moines; J. G. Frackman, Milwaukee; W. M. Grant, Minneapolis; Harry Lefholtz, Omaha, and franchise holder Robert F. Withers, Kansas City.

Steve Edwards, director of publicity, will leave here today for Minnesota and then proceed to Hollywood.

Gillham Calls Meet Of Para. Partners, Promotional Heads

(*Continued from page* 1)

discuss advertising and exploitation on "For Whom the Bell Tolls," which will be released Feb. 16 for popular-priced engagements, R. M. Gillham, advertising and publicity director, will preside. The production is in Paramount's third block for 1944-45. Campaigns to be set up for the initial engagements will blueprint the campaign for subsequent engagements.

In addition to "For Whom the Bell Tolls," other productions will be discussed, including the first two Hal Wallis pictures, "Love Letters" and "The Affairs of Susan;" and, "Salty O'Rourke" and "Two Years Before the Mast." Advertising and publicity services to theatres will also come in for discussion.

The meeting will be opened Friday by Gillham, who will turn the gavel over to Alec Moss, exploitation manager. Al Wilkie, publicity manager, and Stanley Shuford, advertising manager, will also participate.

Paramount's advertising representatives and the theatre advertising heads will arrive here Thursday. A luncheon will be held for them at the Pierre on Friday, and the visitors will be the guests of Paramount at theatre parties Thursday and Friday evenings.

Those Attending

Circuit and theatre advertising-publicity directors attending will be: Howard Pettengill, Florida State Theatres; Charles Winchell, Minnesota Amusement Corp.; Harry Browning, M. and P. Theatres; Dale McFarland, Tri-States Theatres; Frank Starz, Interstate Theatres; Louis J. Finske, Comerford-Publix, Scranton; Jerry Zigmond, Newman Theatre, Kansas City; Paul Snoddy, Denham, Denver; Ray Hendry, Intermountain Theatres, Salt Lake City; N. L. Plessner, Fanchon and Marco, St. Louis; William Jenkins and Don Avey, Lucas and Jenkins Theatres; James Nairn, Famous Players Canadian.

Paramount district advertising representatives at the meetings will include: Arnold Van Leer, Boston; Edward J. Wall, Albany; J. M. Joice, Cleveland; Charles Perry, Cincinnati; William Brooker, Philadelphia; James Levine, Pittsburgh; E. G. Fitzgibbon, Chicago; James Castle, Kansas City; Robert Blair, Denver; Allan S. Glenn, Dallas; Vernon Gray, Atlanta.

Jack Benny to Form Own Producing Unit

(*Continued from page* 1)

comedian is in New York he will discuss financing for the company with banking interests and will probably set releasing plans for the films, the total of which he did not disclose. Members of Benny's NBC radio show at the luncheon included Phil Harris, 'Rochester,' Don Wilson and Larry Stevens.

Benny stressed the importance of the March of Dimes drive, for which he is to make several personal appearances in the East, pointing out that although it is not linked to the war effort, it has a vital purpose in the nation's life.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

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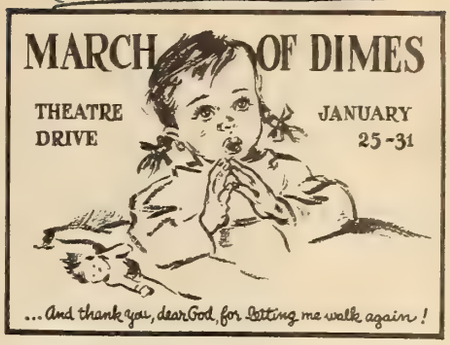

Theatre Video Channels Held Back by FCC

Report Retains Present Video Lanes Below 100

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—Theatre television will get no place in the spectrum until it is further developed, but experimental operations will be encouraged, it was disclosed tonight by the Federal Communications Commission in a report on the proposed allocations of frequencies for the various radio services.

Black and white television broadcasting will be given 12 six megacycle channels in the lower part of the spectrum, roughly where it is now, but will lose six of the 18 channels it now has because of the inability to provide additional frequencies above 225 mc. It will, however, have space for experimental operation between

(*Continued on page* 10)

W. M. Vogel, Export Film Pioneer, Dies

William M. Vogel, 60, industry veteran and one of the pioneers in foreign distribution of American films, died at his Pound Ridge, N. Y., home on Saturday and will be buried at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow from the William H. Clark Funeral Parlor, Katonah, N. Y.

Vogel entered foreign distribution in 1915 as representative in Australia for the old World Film and Metro Production companies. In 1917 he contracted for world distribution

(*Continued on page* 7)

Funeral of Edward Klein Here Today

Funeral services for Edward L. Klein, 57, pioneer film executive, who died here Saturday at Montefiore Hospital after a lengthy illness, will be held at noon today at Riverside Memorial Chapel. At the time of his death, Klein had been Eastern member of Ver Halen Publications, motion picture magazine group of Hollywood.

Born in Peoria, Ill., Klein started a law practice in 1911, and was a member of the Kentucky State Bar. He

(*Continued on page* 7)

Warner Takes Lead In Chicago Dimout

Chicago, Jan. 15. — The Warner circuit of 22 theatres here, before receiving definite orders from the War Production Board, turned off the lighting of all vertical signs and all decorative illumination. Other circuits and independents are expected to follow.

Thomas Flannery, president of the White Way Electric Co., sign maintenance firm, said the WPB order would put many maintenance companies out of business. He suggested that a 'lightless days' program be inaugurated.

Owen Going Back to Para.

Hugh Owen will rejoin Paramount next month, having resigned yesterday as general sales manager of Vanguard, and will assume the post of sales manager of the newly created New York and Southern division, Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of Paramount sales, announced here yesterday. Owen's resignation becomes effective in February. He had originally resigned from Paramount as Eastern division sales

Hugh Owen

(*Continued on page* 10)

One Bulb (Small) Per Marquee Is WPB Dimout Order

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—An almost total blackout of exterior theatre lighting, effective Feb. 1, was ordered today by the War Production Board.

In an order conforming to the directive issued last week by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes, designed to save coal, the WPB limited the lighting of marquees to 60-watts and ordered a complete switch-off of outdoor advertising and promotional, display, decorative and ornamental illumination. A spokesman for the Board said that the order will permit the use of only one 60-watt bulb in any marquee, although the degree of illumination inside of box offices and inside the outer doors of the theatres will not be restricted.

All establishments using exterior lighting are similarly blacked out.

(*Continued on page* 10)

WPB, Industry Raw Stock Meet Feb. 1

The industry's raw stock advisory committee and the War Production Board will hold further discussions of new raw stock allocations at a meeting in Washington, Feb. 1, it was learned here yesterday.

Meanwhile, George J. Schaefer, chairman of the War Activities Committee and industry raw stock liaison with the WPB, will meet with WPB officials in Washington this week in a continuing attempt to secure as much stock for the industry as possible. Schaefer is studying raw stock use by the various Government agencies, including the Foreign Economic

(*Continued on page* 10)

Goldwyn and Selznick to Share Astor

Independents in Unusual B'way 'Showcase' Deal

David O. Selznick and Samuel Goldwyn have contracted for the use of the Astor Theatre on Broadway as a first-run showcase for their films. Deal was made with City Investing Co., owner of the Astor and other Broadway film houses.

In announcing details of the arrangement here yesterday, Neil F. Agnew, vice-president and general sales manager of Selznick's Vanguard Pictures, and James Mulvey, Goldwyn vice-president, indicated that similar arrangements might be made for first-run showcases in other cities.

Goldwyn and Selznick will alternate their pictures at the Astor un-

(*Continued on page* 8)

N. Y. Receipts Hit By Snow, War News

The weekend snowstorm, combined with cold weather and war draft news are all advanced as factors contributing to a drop of grosses at New York's first-run theatres this week, with holdovers predominating.

"Here Come the Waves" and a stage show featuring Woody Herman and his orchestra are expected to bring the Paramount a moderate $70,-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Industry, WMC and Army Meet Here

At a meeting here yesterday, members of the industry's War Activities Committee met with representatives of the War Manpower Commission and the Army Second Service Command, and set plans for the industry's cooperation with the WMC in recruiting workers.

Harry Brandt, national chairman of the theatre division of the industry's

(*Continued on page* 10)

Theatre Building to Reach Lowest Level Since 1935

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—Sharp limitations on new theatre construction, extended to other lines of industrial and commercial activity, will compress building this year to the lowest level since 1935, it was reported here today by the War Production Board.

Preliminary estimates of the construction volume, based on the assumption that the war on both fronts will continue throughout the year, indicate a total of only $3,250,000,000, or 18 per cent under last year and 76 per cent under the peak year of 1942. Privately-financed construction, however, will be very slightly ahead of last year, by reason of the drop in war plant building which is expected, but will be confined largely to factory building.

Because of the very small amount which is expected to be spent on new theatre construction, estimated at $8,-000,000 to $9,000,000 last year, the WPB did not attempt to develop any figures for that operation specifically.

Reviewed Today

Review of "The Big Show-Off" appears on page 8.

Carolina Theatres Face Two New Taxes

CHARLOTTE, Jan. 15.—North Carolina theatres are faced with the renewal of a three per cent gross receipts tax, as well as state license fees ranging from $25 to $425, provided in the 1945 revenue bill now before the North Carolina General Assembly.

The three per cent tax was first levied in 1933 and then removed in 1943. But the provision for license fees, contained in an amendment to the 1945 budget revenue bill, is developing considerable opposition already.

If amended, the bill would provide that "every person, firm, or corporation engaged in the business of operating a moving picture show or place where vaudeville exhibitions or performances are given or operating a theatre or opera house where public exhibitions or performances are given for compensation shall apply for and obtain in advance from the commissioner of revenue a state license for the privilege of engaging in such business, and shall pay for such state license for each room, hall or tent, using the following base tax. . . ."

Scale to $425

The scale of license fees begins with $25 per unit in places of less than 1,500 population and rises to $425 in cities or towns of 25,000 or more.

A Charlotte representative of the industry described the proposed revenue bill, as "outlandishly terrific." Aside from the fact that the state does not need the revenue, the local spokesman said, the new tax would amount to "double taxation." He found no fault with the Federal 20 per cent amusement tax, but said the proposed state tax would be a "terrific load" on theatres.

Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, Inc., have scheduled a meeting for Jan. 22 in Charlotte and it is expected that the new revenue bill will come in for considerable discussion at that time.

$2,545,583 in Ohio Taxes for the Year

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 15.—State collections of the Ohio retail sales and admission taxes and censor fees were considerably higher in 1944 than in 1943, it is disclosed in a report by Don H. Ebright, state treasurer.

The three per cent retail sales tax revenue was $65,559,716, compared with $61,971,949 in 1943. Collections of the three per cent admission impost amounted to $2,545,583, against 1943 figures of $2,175,795. Censor fees were $209,361, against $172,995 for the preceding 12 months. There was, however, an exceptionally sharp decline in license fees, the 1944 figures being $9,109, while in 1943 the yield was $34,022.

Propose Bill to Reduce Ohio Tax

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 15.—A bill to reduce the state sales tax from three per cent to two per cent will be proposed in the Ohio state legislature, convening this week.

Personal Mention

TOM CONNORS, 20th Century-Fox vice-president in charge of sales, and W. C. GEHRING, Western sales manager, have returned from Toronto.

•

IRA HUGH JAFFEE was born Sunday at Polyclinic Hospital here to Columbia assistant treasurer LEO JAFFEE and MRS. JAFFEE; their third son.

•

JOE ROBERTS of Vanguard Films left New York yesterday for Chicago, Des Moines and Dallas, to be gone several weeks.

•

ROBERT BUCKNER, HENRY BLANKE and ARTHUR SCHWARTZ, Warner producers, have arrived in New York from the Burbank studio.

•

BEN KATZ, Universal's Midwest publicity representative, is in Grant Hospital, Chicago, recovering from an appendectomy.

•

ROBERT K. HAWKINSON, assistant to RKO foreign sales vice-president, Phil Reisman, has left for Central America, to be away six weeks.

•

FRED S. GULBRANSEN, RKO manager for Panama and Central America, has arrived here for home office conferences.

•

GEORGE D. BURROWS, Monogram vice-president and treasurer, left New York last night for Hollywood.

•

HARRY PAUL, Wil-Kin Theatre Supply Co., Atlanta, is in Jacksonville, Fla., on business.

•

G. T. MALAFRONTE, assistant to the Universal branch operations manager, is visiting Atlanta.

•

MRS. JOSEPH STROM has arrived from Hollywood.

MESSMORE KENDALL, New York attorney and president of the Capitol Theatre here, and SEPHA TREBLE of London were married at Palm Beach, Fla., Sunday.

•

MRS. HERBERT HORSTEMEIER, wife of Universal's Cleveland exchange manager, is at Lutheran Hospital, that city, recovering from an operation.

•

ROY HAINES, Warner Western-Southern division sales manager, returned to New York yesterday from Dallas and Oklahoma City.

•

S. BARRET MCCORMICK, RKO advertising-publicity director, returned to New York yesterday from Hollywood and a Chicago stopover.

•

HAROLD POSTMAN, assistant to ALAN F. CUMMINGS, head of M-G-M exchange operations, was home ill yesterday.

•

WILLIAM MCCORMICK of M-G-M's publicity department will go to Washington tomorrow with MARGARET O'BRIEN for a 'Dimes' broadcast.

•

A. A. SCHUBART, RKO manager of exchange operations, has arrived in Los Angeles.

•

CHARLES REAGAN, Paramount vice-president, has returned to New York from Atlanta.

•

NICHOLAS NAPOLI, Artkino Pictures' president, left New York yesterday for Cleveland.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Warner Eastern district sales manager, left New York yesterday for Cleveland.

•

HERBERT MORGAN, Eastern M-G-M short subject representative, left New York yesterday for Chicago.

Columbia May Make Theatre Guild Films

Columbia and the Theatre Guild are working on a deal whereby Columbia will produce and release for the Guild one feature yearly, to be selected from Guild plays.

Theresa Helburn of the Guild has left New York for the Coast where she will work on details of the deal as well as cast "Carrousel," musical version of "Lilliom," for the Guild.

Eddy Rehabilitation Plan for Dischargees

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 15.—Arthur Eddy, independent publicist, has established a Career Rehabilitation Service to aid film professionals on their discharge from the war services. Under Eddy's plan a complete publicity service is given each discharged veteran without charge for a two-months period.

SMPE to Meet

The Society of Motion Picture Engineers, Atlantic Coast section, will meet here tomorrow in the RCA studio. Julien Bryan, producer and lecturer, will be guest speaker.

UA Appoints Wylie New Haven Manager

Ray Wylie, United Artists salesman in the Buffalo territory, has been promoted to branch manager at the New Haven exchange, it was reported here yesterday by Carl Leserman, UA general sales manager. Wylie succeeds William S. Shartin, who has been transferred to Pittsburgh.

Leserman also reported the transfer of Morton Magill, UA Pittsburgh branch manager to Philadelphia, were he will succeed Harry Bodkin, resigned.

In the announcement of field personnel changes, Leserman also confirmed the appointment of Jack Wrege as assistant to J. J. Unger, Western division manager.

Celestials Lunch Today

The Celestials' monthly luncheon will be held today at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel with Basil O'Connor, chairman of the Infantile Paralysis Fund, as guest speaker. Organization is composed of workers in the film, radio, newspaper and magazine fields. Jack Benny will be featured.

Act Favorably on Porter's FCC Post

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The Senate Interstate Commerce Committee today voted a favorable report on the President's nomination of Paul Porter to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission to succeed former chairman James L. Fly. Porter's nomination originally was sent to the Senate for confirmation toward the end of the last session but was not acted upon before Congress adjourned. The President thereupon gave Porter a recess appointment and re-submitted his nomination later.

NEW YORK THEATRES

He's Great with a Gun
And He's Got to Kill!
Erich Von Stroheim — Mary Beth Hughes
The Great Flamarion
with
Dan Duryea — Stephen Barclay
A Republic Picture
REPUBLIC THEATRE
B'way, Bet. 51st & 52nd Sts.
FIRST N. Y. SHOWING!

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50TH STREET & 6TH AVENUE
M-G-M's
"NATIONAL VELVET"
MICKEY ROONEY
DONALD CRISP - ELIZABETH TAYLOR
JACKIE JENKINS - REGINALD OWEN
and THE MUSIC HALL'S
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
'I LOVE A SOLDIER'
PAULETTE GODDARD
SONNY TUFTS
IN PERSON
RUBINOFF
and his VIOLIN
ROMO VINCENT

BING CROSBY
BETTY HUTTON
SONNY TUFTS
In Person
Woody HERMAN
and His Orchestra
ALL-STAR REVUE
"Here Come the Waves"
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
HEDY LAMARR
GEORGE BRENT - PAUL LUKAS
"Experiment Perilous"
An RKO Picture

20TH CENTURY-FOX PRESENTS
A. J. Cronin's
"THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM"
Continuous Performances
RIVOLI
B'way & 49th St.

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YOU HAVE A DATE

WITH A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE...

TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT !

The SCREEN'S FIRST
DRAMATIC
...glittering with gaiet
COLUMBIA
PICTURES
presents
Rita
HAYWORTH
TONIGHT
EVERY
WITH JANET BLAI
MARC PLATT
Screen Play by Lesser Samuels and Abem Finkel • Songs by Jule St
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

GREAT
MUSICAL!
thrilling with the tenderness
of young romance
TECHNICOLOR!
AND
NIGHT
LEE BOWMAN
SLIE BROOKS
Sammy Cahn • Produced and Directed by VICTOR SAVILLE
COLUMBIA PICTURES
Turn to the LIFE AD, please .....
50,000,000 FANS have a
date to see it . . . and other
ads . . . in national magazines!

YOU HAVE A DATE WITH A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE...the musical drama of your dreams... in TECHNICOLOR!
COLUMBIA PICTURES presents
Rita HAYWORTH
TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT
JANET BLAIR · LEE BOWMAN
MARC PLATT · LESLIE BROOKS
Screen Play by Lesser Samuels and Abem Finkel
Songs by Jule Styne and Sammy Cahn
Produced and Directed by VICTOR SAVILLE

Seek to End Patent Monopoly by Law

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—Spurred by a recent Supreme Court decision that patents had been used as a basis of monopoly in industry, Rep. Jerry Voorhis, Cal., today introduced legislation in Congress to amend the patent laws to prevent "monopolistic abuse." Voorhis explained that his bill would require the registration of patent agreements, revoke patents which are illegally used to restrain trade or commerce, authorize the Government to intervene in Federal Court proceedings involving the infringement or validity of patents, and permit determination of the validity and scope of patents in anti-trust proceedings. It would not, however, provide for the compulsory licensing of patents, an idea which has long been agitated in Congress.

Pointing out that a patent is a Government-bestowed monopoly, the Congressman asserted, "If one of the major policies of this Government for 50 years has been to prevent restraints of trade in an effort to maintain a free enterprise system, then surely monopoly grants by the Government, which can only be given to promote science and the useful arts, should be withdrawn, if these grants are used against the fundamental policy of this country. Patents today have become of increasing importance because new industrial processes have been developed during the war, and new industrial enterprises will not be able to survive if illegal monopolies bar access to these processes."

Nominate 11 for Academy Award

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 15.—Eleven pictures have been nominated for consideration of the sound recording awards committee of the Research Council of the Academy of M. P. Arts and Sciences. Nominated by the sound departments of the studios at which they were produced, the pictures will be screened under identical conditions for the committee and the one selected as best, from the sound-recording point of view, will be the subject of an award at the Academy's annual awards ceremony on March 15.

Nominated were: "Cover Girl," by Columbia; "It Happened Tomorrow," Sound Service; Casanova Brown," Samuel Goldwyn Studio; "Kismet," M-G-M; "Double Indemnity," Paramount; "Voice in the Wind," RCA; "Brazil," Republic; "Music in Manhattan," RKO-Radio; "Wilson," 20th-Fox; "Phantom Lady," Universal; "Hollywood Canteen," Warners.

9,150 Eligible for Academy Balloting

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 15.—Approximately 9,150 professionals will be eligible to vote in this year's Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' balloting, according to rules made public here.

Pollock Novel Accepted

"Your Baby, Sir," novel about an expectant father, written by Louis Pollock, former United Artists director of advertising-publicity, has been accepted by the World Publishing Co. for Fall publication.

'Dimes' Pledges Roll in at Rate of 1,000 Per Day

Pledges of participation in the theatres' March of Dimes drive are reaching national headquarters in the Hotel Astor, here, at the rate of 1,000 a day. Through yesterday over 12,000 theatres had been pledged, which is considerably more than on the same date one year ago. The regular campaign headquarters staff has been augmented by a dozen volunteers.

Robert J. O'Donnell and Karl Hoblitzelle, Texas chairmen, have announced that the entire opening night's receipts of Interstate's new 1,000-seat Laurel Theatre in San Antonio will be turned over to the Texas "Dimes" fund. Wired O'Donnell: "Our goal is to double last year's collections of $214,056."

Connecticut Near 100%

With the exception of 20 theatres remaining unpledged, the theatres of Connecticut are 100 per cent in the drive, reports I. J. Hoffman, state chairman.

Harry Browning's Boston publicity committee has lined up every large restaurant and cafeteria in that city for the placement of "Dimes" coin collection boxes on cashiers' desks.

Dedication of the Times Square March of Dimes display, as part of the WAC's Statue of Liberty, is scheduled for noon on Thursday, Jan. 25. A parade, military bands, personal appearances of stars, and addresses by Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, and Harry Brandt of the national drive committee, will precede the unveiling of a large screen upon which the Greer Garson appeal trailer will be screened. Each day a different Broadway theatre will be in charge of securing contributions.

Paula Gould, publicist for Loew's State, New York, has arranged to have a special "Dimes" appeal by little Margaret O'Brien recorded. This record will be amplified continuously during the drive as part of a perambulating street display on Broadway.

Lehman Reports High Quota for Mississippi

Mississippi, which collected $32,166 in the 1944 March of Dimes campaign, should top $50,000 this year, Arthur Lehman, state chairman, reports to industry drive headquarters here. He said 135 pledges have been received, which is only two short of last year's total theatres participating. Lehman hopes to enroll another 130 theatres, including 100 houses catering strictly to Negroes.

Howard London of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has arranged with television stations in New York City, Philadelphia, and Schenectady to televise the Greer Garson "Miracle of Hickory" appeal trailer.

Roscoe Drissell, manager of Loew's State, Norfolk, Va., whose theatre collected a record $12,585 in the 1944 drive, has been appointed vice-chairman of the coming drive by the National Foundation. Drissell's campaign has been accepted as a model one.

Benny to Headline Boston 'Dimes' Benefit Jan. 29

BOSTON, Jan. 15.—A March of Dimes show will be held at Symphony Hall here on Jan. 29. Scheduled to appear are: Jack Benny, Mary Livingstone, Rochester, Phil Harris, Ralph Edwards, and others.

A $100 dinner at the Copley Plaza Hotel has been arranged by George Swartz, general chairman, and the Boston Tub Thumpers are aiding with publicity.

SOPEG Sponsors 'Dimes' At Screen Canteen Here

A 'March of Dimes' night will be held at the Silver Screen Canteen here, tomorrow night, sponsored by the Screen Office and Professional Employees Guild, Local No. 109. Lionel Hampton and his band, with Mildred Bailey, will be guest stars, and a Coast Guard orchestra will play dance music. Hostesses will be from home offices and film exchanges.

W. M. Vogel Export Film Pioneer, Dies

(Continued from page 1)

rights, outside of the United States and Canada, for First National's 'Million Dollar' Chaplins. Subsequently, he organized William Vogel Distributing Corp., which handled foreign distribution for Producers Distributing Corp. and for independent producers. In 1925, he organized and was vice-president and general manager of Producers International Corp. which opened exchanges in England and other leading markets abroad. The company, in 1929, was merged with the Pathe foreign department to become Pathe International Corp.

In 1931 Vogel headed V. and D. Prod., Inc., which produced "Honeymoon Lane" for Paramount distribution, and in 1938 he produced "Topa Topa" for Pennant Pictures.

Kilgallen to Y. and R.

Eleanor Kilgallen, casting director for Columbia Broadcasting, has resigned to join the radio department of Young and Rubicam, advertising agency, here, effective Feb. 5.

Funeral of Edward Klein Here Today

(Continued from page 1)

continued at law in Milwaukee, Louisville and New York until 1917, when he built, owned and operated a number of theatres, and shortly thereafter he went into foreign distribution with offices in London and Paris, continuing until 1941, when he returned to New York.

Among the early films he placed abroad were those dealing with Felix the Cat, Walt Disney's first cartoons, and those of Master-Art, Gotham, A.C.A. and others. For years he was representative of independent American producers and distributors in the foreign field. He was an early president of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers here, and also had been managing director of World-Wide Pictures, Ltd.

Klein is survived by his widow, Etta, and his father.

Pitts Re-Signs Altec

Pitts Theatres, Fredericksburg, Va., has renewed its contract with Altec Service, for 21 theatres in Virginia.

Short Subject Review

"What's Your Name?"

(WAC-20th-Fox)

This pictorial presentation of the need for more factory workers is told in a stirring and admirable manner. The timeliness of this film is emphasized by today's manpower shortage. It fulfills a service to the nation by presenting a convincing plea for war workers. It will give complacent Americans more cause to think. Adequately and effectively it tells the story of the valor and steadfastness of 'GI Joes' and contrasts these Americans with persons on the home front who are shirking their duty. The anonymous soldier is compared with the anonymous worker, each nameless but both doing a job that will hasten victory. This short with its timely and important theme, if given adequate distribution, should be a healthy influence on easing the manpower shortage. Running time, 9½ minutes.

Thumpers' Initiation In Boston Today

BOSTON, Jan. 15.—The Tub Thumpers of America will hold its first initiation at a 'charter closing' dinner at the Parker House here tomorrow. Harry Browning of M. and P. Theatres, chief tub thumper will preside, and Bill Cunningham, columnist, will be the principal speaker.

Units may be formed soon in Hollywood and Washington. The services of members have been offered for the March of Dimes Drive.

Wiseman, Theatre Architect, Is Dead

Harrison G. Wiseman, 67, architect, who designed many New York theatres, died Friday at his home here. He was born in Springfield, O., and spent 30 years as an architect in New York, retiring in 1940 because of ill health.

Among places he designed were Fox studios, here, Loew's Oriental, Alpine, Cameo, Commodore and John Golden Theatre. He is survived by his widow, an adopted daughter and a brother.

Variety Honors Salesmen

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 15.—Local Variety honored film salesmen in this area at a party held at club headquarters last Saturday. Guests of honor included: Nat Kaplin, Columbia; J. M. Jacobs, Tom Smiley, M-G-M; Frank Decker, Monogram; Bernie Gardiner, Paramount; Harry Bugie, PRC; Paul Kreiger, Republic; Mark Cummins, RKO; Jack Needham, Bob McNabb, 20th Century-Fox, Mitchell Blachschleger, United Artists; Harry Young, Universal; Bob Burns, Warners.

Scollard on Coast

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 15.—C. J. Scollard, Paramount exchange operational head, arrived here from New York today to represent the major companies on a new contract embracing about 400 members of the Screen Office Employes Guild at the Los Angeles exchanges.

Goldwyn and Selznick to Share Astor

(*Continued from page* 1)

der the terms of the deal made with City Investing, which is headed by Robert W. Dowling. The arrangement runs for a minimum period of about two and one-half years on a participating basis, whereby they will receive a percentage of the receipts, with the Astor Theatre Corp., a City Investing subsidiary, operating the theatre. The length of runs at the Astor will be determined by box office receipts of individual pictures. Goldwyn's "The Princess and the Pirate" is set to open Feb. 9, inaugurating the new arrangement, and is to be followed by Selznick's "Spellbound" and, possibly, "Goldwyn's "The Wonder Man," thereafter.

Agnew and Mulvey indicated the house might be made available to other independent product during the period of the operating arrangement, with the booking of outside films to be determined by mutual agreement between the two renting parties, Goldwyn and Selznick.

Dark Several Days

Loew's, which has leased the Astor heretofore, made arrangements to continue the run of "Meet Me in St. Louis" until Feb. 4, at which time the house will be darkened for several days to permit extensive alterations, which will eventually increase the Astor's present seating capacity of almost 1,200 seats by about 200 additional seats. City Investing will install sound and projection equipment to replace that being withdrawn by Loew's, whose lease expired the first of the year. Maurice Maurer, who operates the Victoria Theatre, adjacent to the Astor, for City Investing, might operate the Astor as well, it was reported. City Investing also owns the Bijou and Fulton Theatres, used for legitimate shows, adjoining the Astor and Victoria on 45th and 46th street, it is said.

Agnew Hails Plan

Agnew hailed the arrangement as demonstrating that independent producers can work together even though they release through different companies. He said the Astor arrangement will partially solve his company's releasing problems, since national release dates, which have to be set three and four months in advance now in view of the placing of national advertising, are usually predicated on securing first-run Broadway commitments. Long runs and holdovers are tieing up key city first-run theatres, Agnew pointed out, creating new problems for the independents. Sam Spring of the New York law office of Spring and Eastman represented Selznick in the deal.

J. Arthur Rank has been variously reported seeking a Broadway showcase for his films, but competition for the available houses may increase now with M-G-M expected to replace its use of the Astor with another house. City Investing also owns the Republic Theatre, which is operated by the Brandt interests on a joint arrangement with Republic Pictures.

Review

"The Big Show-Off"

(*Republic*)

Hollywood, Jan. 15

ARTHUR LAKE and Dale Evans make an effective team in a light, romantic little musical with some pleasant production numbers. Miss Evans sings several songs, the most tuneful of which are "There's Only One You" and "Hoops, My Dear."

The screenplay, by Leslie Vadnay and Richard Weil, is an inconsequential affair that strains the credulity rather than the intelligence. It is all about a bashful young pianist who falls in love with a night-club singer, but is too shy to tell her so. The night-club owner, competently portrayed by Lionel Stander, undertakes to forward the cause of young love, and is about as helpful as a bull in a china shop. Acting on the theory that women prefer cavemen, he tells the singer that the young pianist is in reality a wrestler who, wearing a mask, is known only as "The Devil." Deception, as usual, proves a tangled web, and in the end it takes the police force to untangle it and bring about a happy ending.

Sydney Williams is credited with a smooth production job; Howard Bretherton directed with his customary feeling for pace.

Running time, 70 minutes. "G."* Release date, not set.

THALIA BELL

*"G" denotes general classification.

Rank Buys Control Of Denham Labs

LONDON, Jan. 15.—J. Arthur Rank has completed his British industry coordination program with the purchase, announced here today, of Sir Alexander Korda's controlling interest in the Denham Laboratories, bought through Denham and Pinewood studios.

Board of directors of the laboratories will reorganize, with Rank as chairman, replacing Harold Boxall. Other members up to now have been Sir David B. Cunynghame, William Harcourt, John Jackson, John Pendleton, John Sutro and Randal Terraneau.

The wartime interlocking directorates of the Denham Laboratories and George Humphries and Co., Ltd., will be discontinued. Comdr. A. W. Jarratt, RNVR, is chairman of the Humphries board, which also includes Boxall, Terraneau, Charles J. Goldsmith and Bernard Charles. The Denham management staff, however, will remain unchanged. Boxall is managing director.

Turner to Set South, Southwest Campaign

Terry Turner, RKO Radio exploitation chief, left yesterday for the South and Southwest. En route he attended the dinner given Hardy Meaken, RKO Theatres division manager, by the Variety Club in Washington last night, and will proceed to conferences with field managers in Atlanta, Memphis, New Orleans, Chicago and Milwaukee.

In St. Louis Turner will set up a campaign for the special showing of "The Body Snatchers" at the St. Louis Theatre Feb. 15 and will remain for the "kick off" of the Dick Powell personal appearance tour in connection with "Murder, My Sweet," at the Fox Theatre on Feb. 21. Turner will accompany Powell until he reaches New York.

Make WAC Feature

Part of a War Activities Committee film featuring Edward R. Stettinius, Secretary of State, was made here over the weekend, at 20th-Fox Movietone Studios; the balance will be made on the Coast.

Simon Schiffrin to Paris on Film Report

Simon S. Schiffrin, representative of the film division of the French Ministry of Information here, will leave late this month for Paris to confer with Jean Painleve, director of the French cinema, and M. Teitgen, minister of information and report on a study of Hollywood studios which he has made. He will also discuss problems bearing on the future of the industry in France.

Conferences with Painleve and Teitgen are expected to determine how many French films made during the German occupation will be available for distribution here, and on what terms. Several major companies are understood to have manifested a desire to undertake their distribution. Selection will be made from 40 available films.

Company representatives in Paris are conferring with the ministry on how many films dubbed in French here by U. S. distributors will be admitted to France. Cooperative French filmmaking, to be assisted financially by cooperative French banks, remains to be decided, Schiffrin said. If decided in the affirmative, the French industry will have private producers competing with the cooperative ventures. Technical difficulties which have handicapped resumption of French production will soon be overcome, Schiffrin said.

While in Hollywood, three French films were screened there by Schiffrin, a short, "Liberation of France," and two features, "Pontcarral" and "Goupy Mains Rouges." Pierre Blanchar of the French underground will accompany him to Paris.

Ernstthal - Merriam Wedding Set for May

Howard Ernstthal, textile converter, and Gertrude Merriam, associate editor of *Motion Picture Herald's Managers' Round Table,* announced their engagement here yesterday. They will be married in May.

Allport Reaches London

LONDON, Jan. 15.—Fayette W. Allport has arrived here to resume his old post as London representative of the MPPDA.

Receipts at B'way Houses Hit by Snow, War and Draft News

(*Continued from page* 1)

000 for a third week, which is profitable but not outstanding. The film has been set for a six-week run. With $65,000 recorded for the first four days of a fifth week, $100,000 is expected for "National Velvet" and a stage show at Radio City Music Hall; the film will hold for a sixth. The fourth week's gross was below early expectations, at $105,000.

"Winged Victory" is yielding moderate business at the Roxy, combined with a stage bill featuring the Nicholas Brothers and Jack Durant; $65,000 is expected for a fourth week, on the basis of $52,000 for the first five days. The third week's gross was below expectations, at $73,000 and the film will conclude next Tuesday night, making way for "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier."

"Mr. Emmanuel," J. Arthur Rank's British-made Two Cities film, the first of the Rank United Artists releases, is scoring at the Gotham with $16,500 expected for a second week, following a first week of $17,000.

$58,000 at Capitol

"Music for Millions" and a stage show featuring Tommy Dorsey and his band is continuing moderately at the Capitol with $58,000 expected for a fourth week on the basis of $40,000 recorded for the first four days; the combination will continue.

The Strand will continue "Hollywood Canteen" and a show headed by Lionel Hampton and his band, with $38,000 expected for a fourth week on the basis of $22,000 in three days.

Of the long-run and straight-feature houses, the Rivoli expects $34,500 for a third week for "The Keys of the Kingdom"; the Hollywood expects $18,000 for the 14th week of "To Have and Have Not"; the Astor recorded $30,000 for the seventh week of "Meet Me in St. Louis"; and the Criterion completed a third week of "Can't Help Singing" with $27,000. "Roughly Speaking" will follow "To Have and Have Not" into the Hollywood, on Jan 30; "Meet Me in St. Louis" will conclude its run at the Astor Feb. 4.

$19,000 at Palace

"Experiment Perilous" is continuing profitably at the Palace with $19,000 expected for a third week; the film will hold for a fourth before making way for "The Woman in the Window," on Jan. 25.

"Tomorrow the World" is continuing to draw profitably at the Globe, with $14,000 expected for a fourth week; it, too, will continue. The Victoria will conclude a fourth and final week of "The Sign of the Cross" with a $10,200 gross; "The Fighting Lady" will open there tomorrow. "Main Street After Dark," which was brought into the Rialto last Friday, is expected to bring about $10,000 but it will not hold over. "The Great Flamarion," last week's only new arrival, is not expected to bring more than $7,000 for a first week, but it will continue.

Camera Stock Issue

Floyd D. Cerf Co., Chicago, will offer today a new issue of 50,000 shares of 80-cent cumulative-dividend preferred stock of the Universal Camera Corp. at $10 each.

"AW MISTER...HAVE A HEART!"

For years we have prided ourselves on the quick, careful and courteous manner in which we handled our customers.

Today we are on the spot as never before, trying to maintain the reputation for service we were so many years building up.

As you read these lines, exactly 504 of our highly-trained personnel are giving their services to Uncle Sam.

504 out of 1600 employees, or practically one out of every three employees are away on military duty. That's a big chunk to take out of a service organization like ours, and for us to still keep going *as well* as we do.

Many of these boys are right out of your own territory too, and when they went—God bless them—they left a hole that seems almost impossible to fill.

So we are trying hard to carry on until they come back to us.

And when things go wrong, please have a little understanding, a little tolerance—Please Mister, have a heart!

In the meantime, kindly get those play-dates in to us, as far ahead as possible. That will help us a lot.

And when some new boy or girl here, happens to pull a boner, or something else happens to aggravate you—Please have a heart.

And thank you.

WHO CAN REFUSE TO HELP CHILDREN?
JOIN MARCH OF DIMES (JAN. 25-31)

NATIONAL *Screen* SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

TANDARD ACCESSORIES • TRAILERS • SPECIALTY ACCESSORIES

Hugh Owen Rejoins Para. Sales Dept.

(Continued from page 1)

manager in April, 1944, to accept the Vanguard post.

At the same time, Reagan announced a split-up of parts of existing divisions supervised by William Erbb, Eastern division head; James J. Donohue, Central division, and George A. Smith, Western division.

Neil Agnew, vice-president in charge of sales for Vanguard, could not be reached yesterday to determine whether he would absorb Owen's sales duties at Vanguard or whether a successor would be appointed.

Under the new divisional plan, which will go into effect when Owen rejoins Paramount, the exchanges will be divided as follows: Eastern division, under Erbb: Boston, New Haven, Albany, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington; New York and Southern division, under Owen: New York, New Jersey, Atlanta, Charlotte and New Orleans.

Central division, under Donohue: Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit, Indianapolis, Chicago, Milwaukee, Dallas, Minneapolis, Oklahoma City and Memphis. Western division, under supervision of Smith: Kansas City, St. Louis, Des Moines, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Denver, Salt Lake City and Omaha.

Oscar Morgan will continue as short subjects sales manager for the United States.

WPB, Industry Raw Stock Meet Feb 1

(Continued from page 1)

Administration, which handles film for export, and the Office of War Information.

To date, the 11 companies have not been advised of allocations for the current quarter and, it is understood, they will either receive notification in the mail from the WPB before the Feb. 1 meeting, or will be told of their allocations at that meeting. The companies are being permitted to use up to 50 per cent of the footage allocated for the last quarter, to carry them over for the present until new allocations are set.

Indications are that the WPB will enlarge the industry advisory committee from its present membership of 11 representatives to include representatives of independent producers.

Hawkinson to Americas

Robert Hawkinson, RKO's assistant foreign manager, has left for a month's tour of the company's exchanges in Central America.

GLOBE TICKET
COMPANY
154 W. 14th ST. N. Y. C.
Phone WAtkins 9-1486
PROMPT SERVICE
AS USUAL

Theatre Video Lanes Are Held Back by FCC

(Continued from page 1)

480 and 920 mc., to permit the development of color pictures.

In a third field of interest to the film industry, the film producers will be given 26 channels for communication service, both point-to-point over short distances and the "walkie-talkie" service which is expected to become important after the war. However, the industry will have to share these channels with other services requiring intermittent use of radio communication.

FM Moved Up

Frequency modulation broadcasting will be moved up from its present 42-50 mc. operating area to 84-104 ms. and the number of commercial chanels will be increased from 35 to 70, and of educational channels from five to 20. In addition, the area between 102 and 108 mc. will be left unassigned for possible future F-M operations. However, it was emphasized, existing F-M stations will not be required to move upward until new receivers capable of tuning in the new frequencies are generally available.

The Commission's report, based on hearings which ran through last October, is designed to set the pattern for postwar, rather than current, operations, and few of the proposed allocations will be put into effect until after material, equipment and manpower again become available for civilian purposes.

The report, which covers the spectrum from 25 to 30,000 megacycles and will be followed by another covering frequencies up to 25 megacycles, will be the subject of oral argument before the Commission, beginning Feb. 14.

No Theatre Video Frequencies

Discussing the question of theatre television, for which channels were sought by the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, and other industry representatives, the FCC explained that since it still is in the experimental stage of development no specific frequencies will be assigned at this time.

"However," the report added, "the Commission will give consideration to applications for experimental authorization involving intra-city transmissions, including studio-to-transmitter, remote pick-up and intra-city multiple address stations, on the frequencies between 480 and 920 megacycles allocated to broadcasting on the basis that the use of these frequencies will be discontinued when needed for the broadcast service."

These experimental operations may also be authorized on the channels: 1,900-2,300, 3,900-4,550, 5,750-7,050, 10,500-13,000, 16,000-18,000 and 26,000-30,000 mc., allocated to relay services.

The 12 television channels will be the 44-50, 54-60, 60-66, 66-72, 78-84, 180-186, 186-192, 198-204, 204-210, and 210-216 mc. frequencies, together with the 72-78 mc. channel when it is cleared of aviation markers, and in addition the present channel 7, 102-108 is left unassigned and before allocation the requirements of television will be considered.

"On the basis of the foregoing allocations," the Commission explained, "it will be possible to authorize seven television stations in one city if the need therefor is shown. Four of these stations can be assigned in the six channels below 100 megacycles and the other three in the six channels available between 180 and 216 megacycles."

Experimental Channel

With the exception of one channel temporarily excluded, that portion of the spectrum between 480 and 920 mc. has been made available for experimental television and the space between 1,225 and 1,325 mc. has been assigned for television relay stations, to be used by "pick-up" stations for relaying programs to the main station for broadcasting. Pick-up service also will be permitted between 480 and 920 mc. until those channels are needed for television broadcasting.

When color television is perfected, it was indicated, the question of permanent channels will be considered, but that problem, involving the use of wider channels than required for black-and-white, will be deferred until it is necessary to take action. Improved monochrome service also may be conducted experimentally in the same 480-920 mc. field.

Discussing the question of channel widths, the Commission defended its allocations on the basis of a 6-mc. channel, as now used, as being desirable until the improvements which are claimed possible with wider channels are perfected.

The report showed that six commercial television stations now are in operation, three are under construction, and applications for 100 are on file. Three experimental stations are rendering a limited program service, and it is estimated that there are about 7,000 television receiving sets.

Keston Sees Preference For High Frequencies

"It seems to us that the whole factual content of the television sections of the FCC allocations report clearly indicates the Commission's desire and belief that American television should move promptly into the higher frequencies which alone permit high-quality pictures and true nationwide television," Paul W. Kesten, executive vice-president of Columbia Broadcasting, said here yesterday in commenting upon the new FCC allocations. CBS has been advocating moving the television channels to the higher frequencies to achieve better picture definition.

Kesten explained that the facts in the FCC report "strip" the advocates of low-frequency, low-definition television of all hope that television will remain at that level.

'Worlds' in Washington

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—M-G-M's "Between Two Worlds" will have its world premiere at the Capitol here on Jan. 25.

New Theatre Firm

ALBANY, Jan. 15. — Theatre Management Corp. has been incorpated here. Weisman, Celler, Quinn, Allan and Spett are the attorneys.

WPB Cuts Marquees To One Bulb Apiece

(Continued from page 1)

and WPB officials estimated tonight that the order will save three billion kilowatts of current annually, about 2,000,000 tons of coal. This, however, is less than 10 per cent of the savings of 25,000,000 tons which Byrnes called for. As issued by WPB, the order specifically prohibits the use of electricity for the following purposes:

Outdoor advertising and outdoor promotional lighting.

Outdoor display lighting, except where necessary for the conduct of outdoor businesses.

Outdoor decorative and ornamental lighting.

Show window lighting, except where necessary for interior illumination.

Marquee lighting in excess of 60-watts for each marquee.

Outdoor sign lighting except for directional or identification signs required for fire and police protection and similar purposes.

The last restriction will permit the continued use of the usual "Exit" signs required outside of theatre doors by local ordinances, but those and the single marquee light, it was said, will be all the exterior lighting permitted.

Immediate application voluntarily of the new restrictions is being asked, but after the order goes into effect the discontinuance of electric service may be directed by the WPB in any instance where a consumer willfully violates its restrictions.

Industry, WMC and Army Meet Here

(Continued from page 1)

manpower committee named the following to handle the New York-New Jersey area in the drive: Leo Brecher, liaison between the WMC and the MPI-War Activities Committee for the New York area, and Frank Damis in a similar post for New Jersey.

Four two and one-half-minute trailers, "Silence," "Just for Remembrance," "Hands" and "Have You Killed a Jap?," have been prepared for distribution by the Second Service Command.

At yesterday's meeting were: Myron Sattler, Paramount; Capt. Monty MacLevy, representing Major Monroe Greenthal; Abe Savage, chief of information, WMC; Miss Zoe Fales, assistant to Savage; Al Naroff, Brandt Theatres and John Cassidy, RKO.

Higher Industry Goal In Next Loan Drives

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 15.—The Treasury Department will ask the industry to do even more for the Seventh and Eighth War Loan campaigns than for the successfully concluded Sixth, Ted Gamble, director of the War Finance Division, told the Hollywood Division of the War Activities Committee at a luncheon meeting today. Gamble's address, studded with statistics, followed a talk by Taylor Mills on the new, sterner "win-the-war-now" attitude prevalent in Washington.

Installation of officers and reading of reports on the WAC's 1944 activity preceded the addresses.

THIS PAGE EXCLUSIVELY FOR EXHIBITORS WHO NEVER JOINED THE MARCH OF DIMES

There are only a few thousands of you. Fortunately, some 11,000 theatres with 9,000,000 seats have joined in previous drives.

Why not enlist in this 1945 drive and get that swell, tingling feeling from helping save the lives of little Americans—perhaps, kids in your own town. Maybe, your own child!

It's a grand feeling. Ask any of the 11,000 exhibitors who were in the 1944 drive and who are enlisting again for '45.

Ask them whether taking collections hurt their business, ask them if their patrons didn't respect and honor them for wanting to help this noble charity. Ask them what happened when the 1944 polio epidemic hit their communities.

It is interesting to note that once a theatre participates in the March of Dimes, it comes in eagerly year after year.

It's easy to do—and it's a fine, human, American thing to do.

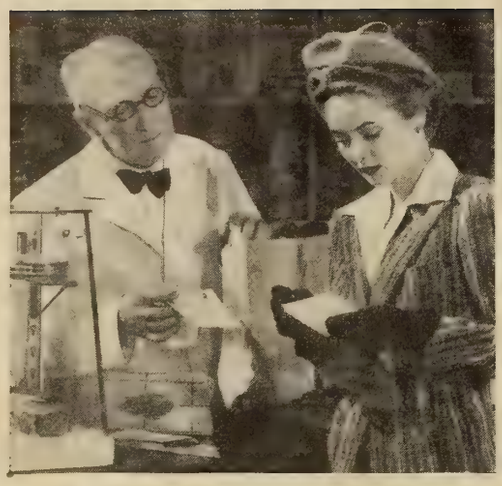
No matter how small your theatre may be, even if you are not open seven days a week—you can be important in this drive. We need you!

Come on, sign your name to this coupon, tear out and mail to suite 188, Hotel Astor, N. Y. C.

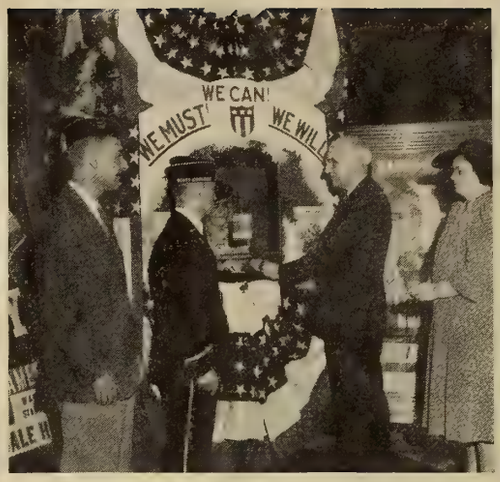
NAME_____

THEATRE ADDRESS_____

_____



The "shorts" she sees at the movies are a big help to the family purchasing agent.

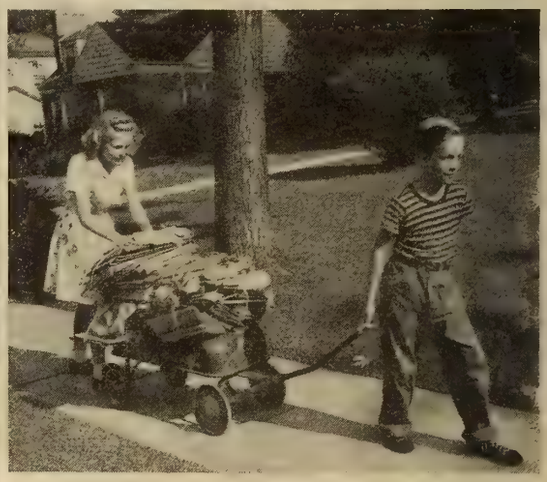


The non-stop War Bond and Stamp drive by exhibitors has brought in millions.

Many a WAC made up her mind to enlist . . . "at the movies."

Informational "shorts" remind the housewife that kitchen fat is indispensable to victory.

The movie houses of America sent thousands of blood donors to the Red Cross.



The movies "sell" the kids on getting in the scrap —and, what's more important, keep them sold.

WE'VE all been in this war so deeply, and for so long, that it's hard to remember back to the days when we thought that wars were fought by fighting men alone. One of the most important and most effective of the "recruiting officers" who are making this everybody's war is the motion picture exhibitor.

Hundreds of hours of theater time have been contributed to the showing of films designed to enlist men and women for the war plants . . . to recruit for the armed services, the merchant marine, and similar organizations . . . to help fight inflation . . . to keep the scrap tin coming in, and the kitchen fat and waste paper rounded up.

Millions have been collected for the War Funds. And when it comes to selling War Bonds and War Stamps, the exhibitors, their cashiers, and their volunteer workers not only have smashed quotas right and left during the drives, but have kept the money rolling in when the going is toughest—in between the drives.

Every war drive counts heavily on the exhibitor

Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N.Y.

J. E. BRULATOUR, INC., *Distributors*
FORT LEE CHICAGO HOLLYWOOD

One of a series of advertisements by KODAK testifying to the achievements of the movies at war

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 12 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1945 TEN CENTS

Film Jobs Are Continued As 'Essential'

Television and Sound Equipment Jobs 'Critical'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—In a move to program the raising of the 900,000 men who will be needed for the Armed Forces during the first half of this year, the War Manpower Commission today revised its year-old list of critical and essential industrial activities to serve as a guide to Selective Service in the drafting of men in the 26-29 age group.

Only about one-third of the occupations originally listed as critical are retained in that category, none of the occupations in the motion picture industry being so rated. Listed

(*Continued on page 6*)

No 'IA' Move On Managers

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 16.—Richard F. Walsh, international president of the IATSE, now indicates that the IATSE executive board now meeting here at the Nicollet Hotel, will take no definite action on the question of organizing theatre managers.

Sessions are being confined to "routine matters" referred to the board by the last 'IA' convention and by various locals, Walsh said. Whatever recommendations are made will be re-

(*Continued on page 7*)

U.S. Pushing Probe In Equipment Field

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The Department of Justice is still pushing its investigation of film equipment companies, but officials said today that no reports have been received from their field agents making the survey, and that some time is expected to be required for its completion.

No indication was given of the angle of the investigation, believed to have been prompted in part by complaints from film interests, and it was emphasized that the whole matter is a 'long term' affair on which no decisions will be posible probably for many months.

Favor Blocks, 20% Option

Independent exhibitors favor block buying provided sufficient cancellation is made available, H. D. Hearn, head of Exhibitor's Service, a buying-booking organization servicing 41 independent theatres in the Charlotte area, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY prior to his return to his territory after a visit here. He said, "No less than a 20 per cent cancellation privilege should be offered."

Hearn sees little effect on independent exhibitors in his territory resulting if the Department of Justice achieves affiliated theatre divorcement because the only circuit affiliate there, Wilby-Kincey circuit, a Paramount partner, is, according to Hearn, "one of the cleanest operations in the U. S."

Hearn approves of the Department's

(*Continued on page 7*)

Sears Names Kamber Assistant on WAC

Gradwell L. Sears, vice-president in charge of distribution for United Artists, and War Activities distributor division chairman, announced here yesterday the appointment of Bernard M. Kamber as assistant WAC distributor chairman with Edward M. Schnitzer. Kamber will act in a supervisory capacity assisting Schnit-

(*Continued on page 7*)

Five Companies Set New Checking Group

Confidential Reports, an organization formed to check on percentage pictures and having Paramount, RKO Radio, Universal, United Artists and Columbia as participants, has been set up and will start functioning around March 15, it was learned here yesterday. Acting president of the new organization is understood to be John J. O'Connor, Universal vice-president.

M-G-M Not Seeking Astor Replacement

M-G-M has no immediate plans to obtain another Broadway first-run to replace the Astor here, which is to be used by Samuel Goldwyn and David O. Selznick, starting next month, Charles C. Moskowitz, vice-president of Loew's, Inc., told MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday.

Moskowitz said Loew's will continue to use Loew's Criterion, as heretofore, on a part-time basis, and ruled out the immediate possibility that M-G-M might seek some other 'showcase,' like the Victoria or convert Loew's Mayfair into a first-run house.

M-G-M first-run product plays the Capitol on a full-time basis, and some is booked into Radio City Music Hall and some into the Globe, as well as the Criterion.

U.S. Asks Industry for New Home Front Stimulant

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16.—Taylor M. Mills, chief of the Office of War Information's bureau of motion pictures, yesterday called on motion pictures to inform and stimulate the home front in a concerted effort to speed victory and save American lives. "There has been complete reversal of feeling in Washington, with no more second-guessing about when the war will end," Mills told a luncheon meeting of War Activities Committee board members. "There is no more talk of reconversion, either," he said. "Everything is directed toward a driving finish in the war, and motion pictures must inform and stimulate the home front toward that end."

In describing the urgency of a concentrated drive toward just one goal —shortening of the war—Mills told the meeting that, "The Army, Navy and OWI are fully cognizant of the

(*Continued on page 7*)

Cinema Lodge Will Honor Sam Rinzler

Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith here will honor Samuel Rinzler, exhibitor, at a meeting at the Hotel Edison on Tuesday evening, Jan. 23. He will be cited for his efforts on behalf of the industry's participation in various war drives and charitable undertakings. Jack L. Levin will present a scroll to Rinzler, who has been hailed in some circles as "the Mark Twain of the film industry".

Film industry executives are expected to attend the special meeting, arranged by Albert A. Senft, Cinema president.

Public Safety Seen Halting Lighting Ban

Gov't May Heed Owners' Warnings on Dangers

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Easing of the ban on the use of more than 60 watts of illumination for theatre marqees after Jan. 31 may be ordered by the War Production Board following a brief trial period to determine whether, as contended by exhibitors, dangerously inadequate lighting of box office areas will result from the ban, it was learned here today.

As reported today in *Motion Picture Daily*, an almost total blackout of exterior theatre lighting, effective Feb. 1, was

(*Continued on page 6*)

Fuel May Shut Hub Theatres

BOSTON, Jan. 16.—Shortage of both oil and coal in the Boston metropolitan area is so critical that the local OPA offices warned today that it might become necessary to close theatres and other places of amusement hereabouts.

Merchants and theatre men are voluntarily cooperating with the suggestion of the 'brownout' to conserve fuel and the Boston business districts will again be unlighted.

Coal a Worry to Ohio Exhibitors

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 16.—Although there is no apparent likelihood that the present coal situation will force immediate emergency closing of any Ohio theatres, exhibitors in some quarters, whose stockpiles are dwindling, are visibly apprehensive over the critical fuel shortage, termed the worst

(*Continued on page 6*)

Reviewed Today

Review of "Hangover Square" appears on page 6.

Personal Mention

SAMUEL GOLDWYN will arrive in New York from Hollywood on Friday.

•

SPYROS P. SKOURAS, 20th Century-Fox president, left Hollywood by plane for New York last night following studio conferences.

•

LT. JAMES O'SHEA, son of E. K. O'SHEA, M-G-M's Eastern sales manager, has arrived from 16 months overseas on a 21 days' furlough. He will stay in New York.

•

EDWARD LEVINSON, son of COL. NATHAN LEVINSON, head of Warners' studio sound department, has been promoted to Captain in the Army Signal Corps.

•

HOWARD P. ROBINSON of St. John, N. B., a Famous Players-Canadian director, has been elected to the board of Canadian Pacific Railway.

•

MARJORIE M. SWEIGERT, daughter of EARLE W. SWEIGERT, Paramount Philadelphia district manager, has enlisted in the Army nursing corps.

•

L. E. GOLDHAMMER, vice-president and general sales manager of Film Classics, Inc., has left for Seattle and Portland.

•

H. WILLIAM FITELSON of Fitelson and Mayers, film attorneys, left for the Coast yesterday.

•

IRVING WORMSER, Eastern sales manager of Film Classics, Inc., has left for Oklahoma City.

•

JOEL LEVY, Loew out-of-town booker, has returned to New York from Pennsylvania.

•

WILLIAM GLEICHER of M-G-M's sales department will leave Monday for the Midwest and South.

•

GEORGE HICKEY, M-G-M Los Angeles district manager, is on a trip to Portland and Seattle.

•

ROY SULLENDER, manager of Warners' Uptown, Philadelphia, has entered the Army.

•

JOHN P. BYRNE, M-G-M Detroit district manager, is in a hospital there with the flu.

•

LOUIS BROWN and VIRGINIA MONOHAN of M-G-M's Cincinnati exchange are vacationing in New York.

•

EDWIN W. AARON, M-G-M circuit sales head, was at home ill yesterday.

Eastman Elects Three

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Jan. 16.—Perley S. Wilcox and Herman C. Sievers were today elected vice-chairman and board members of Eastman Kodak. Charles H. Flint, vice-president and Kodak Park Work's general manager, was named a director.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, Jan. 16.

SPYROS SKOURAS to the 20th Century-Fox sales force painted part of the wave of their future with this:

"Because of the purchase of National Theatres from the Chase Bank and because we bought part of the M-G-M holdings in Gaumont British, it was inadvisable to present a pension plan at the last stockholders' meeting, but we are proposing a plan with the hope of approval of the board of directors which will embrace practically everyone in the company.

"This plan will be presented at the stockholders' meeting next May, and I want you to know when that will be realized, it will be one of the happiest moments in my association with you, as there is nothing I desire more than to safeguard the future of everyone who is associated with the company."

■

He went further. For instance, on the business of making pictures in this kind of a market:

"The negative cost alone of the program which we are going to release from August to August will amount to approximately $33,700,000. When you add to this amount $5,000,000 for the cost of prints, positives, advertising—direct, corporative, trade, all kinds and types of advertising—it will total $38,700,000. And I have not included the cost of distribution in any of these figures. No other company, in a single year, has spent this much money."

■

And on the business of keeping a company of the size of 20th-Fox going, there are figures that are difficult to get down in a single gulp. For example:

Weekly operating expenses ran at the rate of $208,000, or $10,816,000 annually, in 1940. But in 1944, the per-week cost had risen sharply to $387,000 which puts the annual operating overhead at $20,124,000. Simple mathematics show an increase of $179,000 per week in a four-year span. If you want it in more formidable terms, it cost 20th-Fox $9,308,000 more to maintain maneuverability last year than it did in '40.

That's outgo. On the intake side is the expectancy international film rentals will hit $1,534,600 every seven days, or approximately $80,000,000 on the year.

Theatre grosses, via National, are heading for a staggering $1,747,770 a week which, if finally realized, would bulk an annual $90,000,000.

■

Skouras' approach to the always vital matter of goodwill is sound and interesting:

"In this company we are not working as individuals, but we are working for the public and, as such, we are the servants and employes of the public.

"That demands of us an eagle-eye watchfulness and alertness. It requires of us to give our fullest time and effort. It demands of us that we create friendly public relationship and goodwill with our customers and with the public alike. It requires that our relationship with the trade be better than that of any company in the business."

■

"Many times," it is his viewpoint, "I have repeated this statement that the goodwill of this company, which we develop, will be its reservoir, its warehouse, its stockpile, upon which we can always draw. It is the imperishable asset which we will have stored up for ourselves. . . . There may come a time when we will not be so fortunate. Then the goodwill which we have created will be of the greatest value to us."

■ ■

Los Angeles, which is down the line from Hollywood, has looked with askance from time to time at the community of celluloid. Came the other day, a luncheon drawn up by the California Theatre Council and Fletcher Bowron, Mayor of Los Angeles, high upon the speakers' list. A few words from the mayoralty lips:

"Before the war I heard many persons describe the theatreman as being too aggressive. . . . The war has changed that. The theatremen themselves have changed that. Today the theatreman ranks with the best of the citizens of a community. . . . Yes, the theatre of today is a definite part of community life in wartime. I wonder if it will remain so in peacetime."

The Mayor was given the proper assurances.

■ ■

His hurried trip here had nothing to do with a UA bid for International Pictures' distribution, according to Grad Sears, but that's not exactly the way we heard it.

Coming Events

Jan. 19-20—Paramount district advertising representatives and advertising-publicity directors of circuits, meeting with home office executives, Hotel Pierre, New York.

Jan. 21-22—Motion Picture Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, annual meeting, Charlotte.

Jan. 22-24—Republic sales meeting, Hollywood.

Jan. 24—National Allied board of directors' meeting, Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus.

Jan. 25-31—March of Dimes campaign in theatres.

Feb. 2—Press Photographers Association dance and entertainment, Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York.

March 15—Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences annual awards, Hollywood.

Murray Damage Suit Limited to 5 Years

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—Thomas Murray today concluded his suit in Federal Court, here, against producer-distributors and Balaban and Katz, in which he is seeking $1,000,000 damages for alleged conspiracy to deprive him of product. Argument was started by defense counsel for a dismissal verdict from the bench.

Judge William Holly ruled that the damage period must be between 1937 and 1941, when Murray ceased to operate the Thalia and filed his suit. Plaintiff had sought damages back to 1924, but the court ruled that damages sought beyond a five-year period of the filing of the suit are outside the statute of limitations.

Coe Set for Two More Industry Addresses

Charles Francis Coe of the MPPDA will address the 20th Century Club in Pittsburgh on Jan. 29 on the subject of drama and how it has developed in the film industry's 50 years, and on Jan. 30 he will speak before the Advertising Club of Washington on "Movies at War." Coe began a series of talks in Pittsburgh and Washington two years ago.

His new addresses will be made to audiences of more than 500 in both cities, including civic, religious and educational leaders, as well as club and film personnel.

Anne O'Donnell Joins PRC Sales Dept.

Anne O'Donnell is being brought into PRC's home office, from Detroit, in an executive capacity under Leo J. McCarthy, general sales manager. Miss O'Donnell was one of the original PRC franchise holders in Detroit; she and William Flemion recently sold their holdings in the parent company.

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Akers Hits Proposed Changes in Okla. Tax

OKLAHOMA CITY, Jan. 16.—C. B. (Brownie) Akers, vice-president of the MPTO of Oklahoma and an executive of Griffith Amusement Co., appeared today before a legislative appropriations committee to protest proposed changes in the state sales tax law.

Akers attacked proposals which would alter admission schedules for Oklahoma box offices, which are not adjusted to conform to a two per cent state sales tax levy. The bill introduced in the legislature would eliminate mill levies on all admissions of 14 cents or less, and place a one-cent flat levy on admissions in the 15-64 cents bracket.

At present, children's tickets to most Oklahoma theatres are priced at nine and eight-tenths cents, thus allowing the two mill levy to bring the price up to 10 cents and avoid the Federal tax.

Akers said the legislature, by passing the amendment, would cause children's tickets to come under the Federal tax, boosting them from 10 to 12 cents, which would cost patrons an estimated $7,000 weekly.

Minneapolis Tax On Admissions Unlikely

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 16.—Strong opposition from the industry has influenced a Mayor's committee here to abandon its plans for local theatre admission taxes and to seek another source for needed revenue. It is now considered a foregone conclusion that the committee, which is seeking additional revenue for municipalities, will abandon the planned theatre tax provided the state legislature, currently in session, agrees to its request for a larger share of the state public utilities gross earnings tax to be alloted to cities, towns and villages.

Committee members point out that municipalities in other states receive a much larger proportion than in Minnesota. A Mayors' meeting in St Paul had approved a proposed enabling law, to permit municipalities to tax theatre admissions, but had referred the matter to a committee of 15 for action, which now seems unlikely to be forthcoming.

O'Connor Addresses Celestial Luncheon

Monthly luncheon of the Celestials, here, organization of executives in the film, radio, newspaper and magazine fields, took place yesterday at the Waldorf-Astoria, with 300 in attendance. Basil O'Connor, chairman of the Infantile Paralysis Fund and head of the Red Cross, addressed the meeting on problems of returning veterans.

Robert Gillham, Rutgers Neilsen and Al Wilkie were among those present from this industry.

Fawcett Names Three

William H. Thomas, James W. McGlone and Michael Slater have been named to the Chicago sales staff of Fawcett Publications, it is reported here by Eliott Odell, advertising director.

Disney Net for '44 Increases $55,000

Hollywood, Jan. 16.—Walt Disney Productions reports for the year ended Sept. 30, 1944, a net income of $486,287, after provision of $221,000 for income taxes and $397,736 for additional losses on inventories. The net compares with $431,536 for the previous year.

Joyce Sees Video With 300,000 Jobs

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—In five years after full postwar production is begun, the television industry will provide 300,000 new jobs and gross nearly $1,500,000,000 annually in retail sales, T. F. Joyce, general manager of the radio-television department of RCA-Victor predicted before the Advertising Club of Washington today.

Joyce stressed that it will take one year after the 'go-ahead signal' to organize production facilities before television receivers start to come off the line.

If granted, Joyce pointed out, the more than 100 applications for commercial television broadcasting licenses now pending before the Federal Communications Commission, will provide service to 50 per cent of the wired homes of the United States.

At the end of five full television production years, the billing of the radio-television industry, in terms of retail pricing, will be approximately $1,440,000,000, contrasted with the 1941 retail value of approximately $620,000,000, according to Joyce.

Austrian Sees Films Leading Video Show

CINCINNATI, Jan. 16.—Television on film will offer an effective method of spreading the story of large corporations to the public, Ralph B. Austrian, executive vice-president of RKO Television Corp., told a meeting of the Cincinnati Industrial Advertisers Club here tonight in an address titled "Television, Its Effect on Advertising and Public Relations."

"It will be possible to portray what a large corporation does for its employes via motion pictures to be made for telecasting.," Austrian pointed out.

Video Demonstration

A demonstration of how radio commercials can be adapted for television will be the highlight of the Television Producers Association's monthly meeting, Jan. 22, at the Pennsylvania Hotel, here. Dan Halpin of RCA Victor will be in charge of the demonstration.

Seek Television Permit

CINCINNATI, Jan. 16.—The Crosley Corp., operating radio stations WLW, WSAI, and several short-wave stations, has petitioned the Federal Communications Commission for permission to operate a new commercial television station in Columbus, to run on 60,000 to 66,000 kilocycles.

Urge War Jobs for St. Louis Operators

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 16.—In a letter to the House Military Affairs committee made public today, the St. Louis Motion Picture Exhibitors committee urges that 167 skilled union employes on theatre payrolls not needed by theatres be shifted at once to war factories.

The letter, signed by Louis E. Ansell, committee chairman, and addressed to Rep. Andrew J. May, charges the employes are kept on the payrolls "through the pressure of the union."

A similar suggestion was made by the exhibitors to the War Manpower Commission when the local operators' union, in an action directed at two subsequent run theatres, forced the closing of virtually all St. Louis first runs for several days last month.

"We feel the public has been stirred up sufficiently by the strike to increase the chance of getting something out of Washington," Ansell explained. Officials of the operators' union could not be reached for comment.

The union contends that two men in theatre projection booths are necessary for the safety of the public. A St. Louis ordinance requires two operators but local theatres have asked the board of aldermen to repeal the ordinance. The theatres agree to pay to union men taking war jobs any difference in salary and guarantees to rehire them after the war.

Start to Sign New Newsreel Contracts

Newsreel companies have started signing new contracts with IATSE newsreel cameramen's Local No. 644 in New York and Local 666 in Chicago, having reached a compromise agreement on two stumbling blocks which have delayed signing of the pacts for many months, it was learned here yesterday.

A representative of one of the newsreel companies indicated here yesterday that a compromise has been effected in the cameramen's demands for severance pay and the newsreel companies' demands for provision that 20 per cent of their staffs may be apprentices. Pat Casey, producers' labor contact, aided in the reaching of the agreements, which will affect over 60 cameramen.

Legion Classifies 10 New Pictures

The Legion of Decency has classified the following: A-1, "Ghost Guns," "Gun Smoke," Monogram; "His Brother's Ghost," PRC; "She Gets Her Man," Universal, and "This Man's Navy." Class A-2, "Adventures of Kitty O'Day," Monogram, and "Having Wonderful Crime," RKO.

Three films were placed Class B: "Delightfully Dangerous," United Artists; "House of Frankenstein," Universal; "2,000 Women," Gainsborough-United Artists.

UA Regional Meeting

ATLANTA, Jan. 16.—Fred Jack, Southern division manager for United Artists, will hold a regional meeting for personnel of the Charlotte, New Orleans, Dallas and Atlanta branches at the Jung Hotel in New Orleans Friday through Sunday.

Short Subject Review

'World Without Borders'

(Universal)

The history of aviation, which Joseph O'Brien and Thomas Mead of Universal News have sketched briefly in newsreel clips of early flying feats and action shots of the present war has an understandable emphasis on military operations but offers, too, a glimpse of peacetime flying, perhaps in 1948. Present, past and future are represented by pictures and facts of unusual interest. In addition to the familiar shots of early biplanes, balloons and gliders—some of them taken from the aviation exhibit in Rockefeller Center—there are the inventions of the Gilmore brothers, who preceded the Wrights with machines of amazing design which never flew. The air achievements of World War II are shown as the climax of more than 40 years' of experimentations and daring. But even they may be overshadowed for the moment by the promise of Bermuda by air, round trip, for little more than $30. The drama is in the picture, while a factual commentary supplies identification. Running time, 20½ minutes.

Para. Sales Meeting On Coast Jan. 29

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16.—Charles M. Reagan, George Smith and Claude Lee, Paramount home office executives, are due here next Monday preparatory to a one-day sales meeting to be held in San Francisco Jan. 29, with Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle and San Francisco managers, salesmen and head bookers attending.

Russell Holman and John Byram will arrive at the same time in accordance with a plan for rotating East-West production executives, set up by Henry Ginsberg, general manager in charge of studio operations. Also due next Monday are Robert Gillham, on routine Coast business, and Y. Frank Freeman. Barney Balaban is expected two weeks later.

Folliard, Gittleson to Be Feted in Dallas

DALLAS, Jan. 16.—Ned Depinet Sales Drive captain Robert Folliard and his assistant, Harry Gittleson, will be guests at a luncheon here Thursday when they arrive on the last leg of their tour for the drive. Robert J. O'Donnell and other exhibitors will attend.

Following the luncheon, Folliard and Gittleson will confer with RKO Southwestern district manager Ben Cammack and branch managers S. M. Sachs, A. M. Avery and R. B. Williams of Dallas, Memphis and Oklahoma City, respectively, with their sales staffs and bookers.

To Discuss IRE Meet

Trade and newspaper radio editors have been invited to a luncheon at the Hotel Warwick here today to hear plans for the Institute of Radio Engineers' Winter technical meeting, to be held at the Hotel Commodore here, Jan. 24-27. E. L. Bragdon of the NBC press department, is chairman of the IRE publicity committee for the meeting.

SOMETHING TO
ROAR
ABOUT!

Isn't it Wonderful!

M-G-M GETS

5

OUT OF THE

"10 BEST PICTURES" OF THE YEAR!

—IN FILM DAILY'S NATIONWIDE POLL!

"No company has ever done it before. Again M-G-M makes history!"

The Winners!

MADAME CURIE
DRAGON SEED
THE WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER
GASLIGHT
A GUY NAMED JOE

AND HERE ARE M-G-M HITS FOR 1945 HONORS!

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS . . . *in Technicolor* . . . Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien

THIRTY SECONDS OVER TOKYO . . . Spencer Tracy, Van Johnson, Robert Walker, Phyllis Thaxter

THE THIN MAN GOES HOME . . . William Powell, Myrna Loy

BETWEEN TWO WOMEN . . . Van Johnson, Lionel Barrymore, Gloria DeHaven, Marilyn Maxwell

NATIONAL VELVET . . . *in Technicolor* . . . Mickey Rooney, Donald Crisp, Elizabeth Taylor, Jackie Jenkins

THIS MAN'S NAVY . . . Wallace Beery, Tom Drake, James Gleason

MUSIC FOR MILLIONS . . . Margaret O'Brien, Jose Iturbi, Jimmy Durante, June Allyson

THRILL OF A ROMANCE . . . *in Technicolor* . . . Esther Williams, Van Johnson, Frances Gifford, Lauritz Melchior, Tommy Dorsey and his Orchestra

WEEKEND AT THE WALDORF . . . Ginger Rogers, Lana Turner, Walter Pidgeon, Van Johnson, Robert Benchley

THE VALLEY OF DECISION . . . Greer Garson, Gregory Peck, Lionel Barrymore

ANCHORS AWEIGH . . . *in Technicolor* . . . Frank Sinatra, Kathryn Grayson, Gene Kelly, Jose Iturbi, Rags Ragland, Carlos Ramirez

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY . . . George Sanders, Hurd Hatfield, Donna Reed, Angela Lansbury, Peter Lawford

HOLD HIGH THE TORCH . . . *in Technicolor* . . . Elizabeth Taylor, Frank Morgan and Lassie

WITHOUT LOVE . . . Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn, Lucille Ball

FOR OUR VINES HAVE TENDER GRAPES . . . Edward G. Robinson, Margaret O'Brien, James Craig, Jackie Jenkins

ZIEGFELD FOLLIES . . . *in Technicolor* . . . Fred Astaire, Lucille Ball, Lucille Bremer, Fanny Brice, Judy Garland, Lena Horne, Gene Kelly, James Melton, Victor Moore, William Powell, Red Skelton, Esther Williams

KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY . . . Lana Turner, Laraine Day, Susan Peters

SON OF LASSIE . . . *in Technicolor* . . . Peter Lawford, Donald Crisp, Lassie and Laddie

THE CLOCK . . . Judy Garland, Robert Walker

21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP
MGM

IT'S ANOTHER FRIENDLY YEAR!

Six 'Tub Thumpers' To Follow Boston

BOSTON, Jan. 16.—The Tub Thumbers of America, composed of film and related press agents, and others, was officially launched here tonight with an installation at the Parker House of Boston members and the announcement that charters will be granted immediately for units in New York, Portland, Me., Hollywood, Cleveland, Chicago and Lowell, Mass.

Bill Cunningham, columnist of the *Boston Herald,* and other papers, was the chief speaker. Fifty charter members were voted into the organization, with Harry Browning of M. and P. Theatres installed as chief tub thumber.

Browning announced that it is the aim of the Tub Thumpers to become "a vital national organization of several thousand members all engaged in publicity and public relations work." The charter has been so drawn as to permit publicists of any industry to become members.

The initial campaign of the Boston Thumbers, Tub No. 1 will be in behalf of the March of Dimes, and it was on this subject that Cunningham, Martin J. Mullin, Sam Pinanski and others spoke at this initial dinner-meeting.

Public Safety Seen Halting Light Ban

(*Continued from page* 1)

ordered yesterday by the War Production Board, the order conforming to the directive issued by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes, designed to save coal, and limiting the lighting of marquees to 60-watts.

A. Julian Brylawski of the MPTOA discloses that the matter has been taken up with WPB officials, by a group of theatre men, who expressed their determination to go along with anything the WPB ordered, Brylawski said, but making representations regarding the public safety problem involved. It was represented, however, that the WPB was anxious to get the order out, and it was indicated that if the marquee restriction did not work out well, it could be corrected.

Meanwhile, it was suggested that exhibitors could install stronger lighting inside their box offices, providing additional illumination to the immediate area outside. Since this would be interior illumination it would not be affected by the order.

Representatives of the exhibitors are expected to make further protests to the WPB in an effort to have the restriction eased to the point where dim, but adequate, illumination may be provided around a box office.

Set Hochstein Trial

The trial of Harry Hochstein, former morals inspector in Chicago, and the sentencing of Isadore Nevin, former bookkeeper for George E. Browne, ex-president of the IASTE, both of whom were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury for alleged perjury in the Bioff-Browne proceedings, have been set for Feb. 13, by Judge John W. Clancy in the New York Federal Court.

Review

"Hangover Square"

(*20th Century-Fox*)

COMBINING again the acclaimed talent of the late Laird Cregar in delivering a sinister performance, the intelligent production guidance of Robert Bassler, the keen directorial skill of John Brahm, and the fine craftsmanship of Barre Lyndon in fashioning screenplays, a quartet responsible for "The Lodger" last year, 20th Century-Fox has achieved another grim, gruesome and grotesque horror film in "Hangover" Square." It is a picture that ranks high in the thriller-chiller class, being handsomely produced, smoothly acted by a good cast, including Linda Darnell, George Sanders, Glenn Langan, Faye Marlowe and Alan Napier, besides Cregar; and it is directed with sufficient restraint to keep it within the bounds of plausibility, despite unique aspects of the story. If the box office returns of "The Lodger" can be used as any criterion, this film is headed for healthy receipts.

"Hangover Square" is based on the novel by Patrick Hamilton, who created "Gaslight." The background is London at the beginning of the present century. The story is a moody and suspenseful psychological melodrama built around a brilliant young composer afflicted with a strange homicidial mania which manifests itself during periodic mental lapses into the sub-conscious, induced by discordant sounds. The composer's emotional conflict is heightened by his urge to create a piano concerto for his fiancée, Miss Marlowe, whose father, Napier, is an outstanding orchestra conductor; and popular music for Miss Darnell, a willful, conniving, and ambitious cabaret singer. Cregar is revealed as a murderer in the first scene but he is unaware of his crime, especially since he takes his suspicions to Sanders, a Scotland Yard psychiatrist, and is exonerated. Miss Darnell is his next victim after she jilts him, but again the murder is so cleverly executed and the body is so ingeniously disposed of, that suspicion detaches itself from Cregar. When Sanders finally confronts Cregar with the evidence he has painstakingly assembled, Cregar is only half convinced and begs for time to enjoy the triumph of the performance of his first piano concerto. Then in the mental agitation created by the playing of the concerto and the attempt of Scotland Yard to take him captive, his deeds are revealed to him during another of his spells. He perishes in a fire, as did his two previous victims.

Cregar's murders are amongst the most bizarre ever perpetrated in a film. Bernard Herrmann's music heightens interest in the performances by Cregar and Miss Darnell which are excellent. Joseph La Shelle's lens work is also an outstanding asset in the uniformly splendid production provided by Brassler. If it's a good shocker that the customers want, this will certainly provide it.

Running time, 77 minutes. "A."* To be released in February.

MILTON LIVINGSTON.

**"A" denotes adult classification.*

Fitzgibbons Here to Set FP-C Dinner

TORONTO, Jan. 16.—John J. Fitzgibbons, Famous Players-Canadian president and managing director, will leave for New York tomorrow to make final plans for the company's 25th anniversary dinner here Jan. 23, when 37 employes will be installed in the 25 Year Club for continuous service. Among those expected to attend are Adolph Zukor, Barney Balaban, Austin C. Keough and John W. Hicks, Jr.

RKO to Show Five Films in February

RKO has set national trade showings for five new productions, as follows: "The Enchanted Cottage" and "What a Blonde," Feb. 13; "Betrayal from the East" and "Having Wonderful Crime," Feb. 14; "Pan-Americana," Feb. 15.

To Set Red Cross Plans

Plans for cooperation of the radio industry in the 1945 Red Cross War Fund drive will be discussed at a luncheon at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria here next Tuesday. James E. Sauter, head of the United Theatrical War Activities Committee, has been appointed radio division chairman.

Altec Signs Steifel

Steifel Bros. of Ephrata, Pa., has renewed agreements with Altec for the servicing of its sound equipment.

Coal a Worry to Ohio Exhibitors

(*Continued from page* 1)

in the State's history, exhibitors report to MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

Many homes, apartment buildings and business establishments in central and northern Ohio areas are without heat, their fuel supplies exhausted; replenishments not immediately possible, because a month of continuous snow and ice on highways has reduced to a minimum the movement of trucks, the sole method of coal transportation to certain situations. Railroad sidings in some sections are said to be completely filled with cars of coal frozen solid, and with forwarding impossible because of lack of equipment. Public libraries are closing one day a week, some communities report; others have shut off street lighting.

Deny Petition of 802

James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, announced yesterday that the union's executive board had denied the petition of a group of members of Local 802 that the 1942 and 1944 elections be set aside on the grounds that they were not in accordance with the local's by-laws.

Morrow Rejoins CBS

Marjorie Morrow, who recently resigned as Warner Brothers' Eastern talent director, will rejoin Columbia Broadcasting here on Monday in the post of casting director, which she had left in 1943 for Warners.

Unger Leaves for 3 Field Meetings

J. J. Unger, United Artists Western division manager, will leave here today on a swing around exchanges under his supervision and will conduct district sales meetings in Chicago, St. Louis and San Franisco. Each will be attended by branch managers and salesmen from all exchanges in each district.

Dates of meetings are now being arranged. The first is scheduled in district manager Rud Lohrenz's Chicago territory with branch managers and salesmen from Chicago, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and Minneapolis; the second will get under way with district manager T. R. Thompson presiding in St. Louis with members of staffs from Kansas City, Omaha and St. Louis; the final session will be held in San Francisco, with district manager W. E. Callaway presiding over members from Denver, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, San Francisco and Seattle offices.

Unger will return to the home office in about four weeks.

WMC Retains Film Jobs as 'Essential'

(*Continued from page* 1)

as critical, however, are those jobs in the production of communication equipment, including radio and radio equipment, television and electrical sound equipment.

The various film occupations which were carried on the original list are continued as essential, however, including motion picture production of technical and vocational training films for the Army, Navy and war production industries; film processing; news reels, and the development of sensitized film.

The new classification is designed primarily to protect key men in the most important war and war-supporting programs. Under the plan for taking men now deferred for occupational reasons, the first to be called will be those not employed in any activity on the essential list; second the more readily replaceable men in the essential, but not critical occupations; third, the replaceables in critical programs and, finally, a clean sweep, first of the essential and then of the critical list.

Honor Ullman Today

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—Frederic Ullman, Jr., president of Pathe News, will be honored today by the American Civil Liberties Union in a ceremony to be held at the Esquire Theatre, here. He will receive a plaque in recognition of his work in fostering tolerance in the U. S., specifically for "New Americans," released through RKO, in the "This Is America" series.

Glass Back to Coast

George Glass, West Coast publicist who is in New York on personal business, just completed, plans to leave for Hollywood as soon as travel accommodations can be obtained. Glass yesterday denied reports linking him with a United Artists home office advertising-publicity department post.

Loew's, Paramount List Bond Sales

Loew's Theatres sold $20,868,605 in war bonds to patrons during the Sixth War Loan, according to an announcement made here yesterday by Charles C. Moskowitz, Loew theatre executive. Of this amount, $17,080,900 were 'E' bond series. The balance, $3,887,705, were 'F' and 'G' series. Sales represented 211,843 individual bonds.

Al Weiss and the staff at the Pitkin Theatre, Brooklyn, led with 'E' bond sales amounting to $923,450. In addition the Pitkin reported $219,300 in 'F' and 'G' bonds.

Paramount's Sixth War Loan drive in the New York area resulted in a total of $663,140 in sales of extra bonds to individuals, Edward A. Brown, drive chairman, reported yesterday at a Paramount Pep Club meeting at the home office. Brown further reported that combined sales during the drive in the area amounted to $7,063,900, which included purchases by the company subsidiaries and outside sales credited to Paramount. This does not include sales made by the Paramount Theatre.

Zukor Accepts

Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board, accepted a citation on behalf of Paramount, presented by John Whitney Richmond, deputy manager of the New York State War Finance Committee. The citation testifies that the employes during the drive sold War Bonds in an amount sufficient to finance an eight-car hospital train. Richmond also presented a citation to Brown, who, in turn, presented Treasury citations to employes who performed outstanding jobs.

Other speakers at the home office employes' meeting included: Oscar Morgan, short subject sales manager; Russell Holman, head of the Eastern production department; Sam Buchwald, executive head of Famous Studios; Graham Place, animator, and Joseph Stoltz of the story department. J. L. Brown, president of Paramount Pep Club, and Irving Singer, chairman of the entertainment committee, had charge.

RWLB Defers RKO Managers Pact Meet

The Regional War Labor Board here has postponed until next Monday the initial hearing in the contract dispute between RKO and Motion Picture Theatre Operating Managers and Assistant Managers Guild; the hearing had been set for yesterday.

The guild represents managers and assistants in 40 RKO theatres in the Metropolitan New York area. The dispute was certified to the WLB several weeks ago when RKO and the guild failed to agree on contract terms.

Final Kent Accounting

A final accounting of the estate of Sidney R. Kent, late president of 20th Century-Fox in Surrogate's Court here, disclosed that Peggy Ann Kent Moxley, daughter, will receive the bulk of the estate, $830,000. Kent died March 19, 1942, leaving $1,403,836 net. Mrs. Kent will receive 40 per cent of the estate; life annuities are created for a sister and two brothers.

U.S. Asks Industry for New Home Front Stimulant

(*Continued from page* 1)

raw film stock situation. You may be sure that only essential projects will be dealt with. Toward that end, armed services are now working together on a film showing cooperative effort in one big operation."

Public information films now in work through the cooperation of Government agencies and the War Activities Committee, deal with veteran rehabilitation, the "GI Bill of Rights," international trade, an explanation of lend-lease, nurse's aid recruiting, and post-war jobs.

Lauds Previous Effort

Ted R. Gamble, national director of the War Finance Division, U. S. Treasury, lauded the industry for the work done in previous war loans. In disclosing significant aspects of the national economy, Gamble said, "The job that has been done would have been utterly impossible without the aid of the motion picture industry." He revealed that from May, 1941, up to the last war loan, the Treasury borrowed $157,000,000,000, of which amount $38,000,000,000 came from some 85,009,000 individuals, averaging nine bonds per person. "These are buyers the Treasury especially wants to reach," Gamble explained, "not only for financing the war, but for the welfare of our future economy."

Gamble stated that in the seventh and eighth war loan drives, the Treasury will call on Hollywood—both the Victory Committee and the War Activities Committee—for even more aid than has been provided in the past.

Board members representing the industry at the meeting dedicated the entire industry to the nation's service, and launched a stepped-up program for the coming year. Plans for even closer cooperation with Government agencies this year were explained by Francis S. Harmon, WAC coordinator. Harmon read messages of thanks to the industry from Basil O'Connor, head of the Red Cross; Winthrop W. Aldrich, president of the National War Fund, and Rear Admiral A. S. Merrill of the Navy.

Cites Trade Press Aid

Harmon, at the luncheon-meeting, paid tribute to the work of the trade press in loan drives.

Harmon revealed that 12 industry publications have contributed a total of 833 pages of advertising to all War Activities Committee undertakings which, had it been purchased, would have cost $272,934. Trade journals also devoted 13,554 editorial columns to the same causes.

Six More States Pass 'Dimes' Total

Six more state chairmen have reported to March of Dimes national headquarters here that their states have passed the mark of 1944 theatre participation. Chairmen reporting are: 'Rick' Ricketson, Colorado; J. O. Brooks and Paul Schlossman, Michigan; Arthur Lehman, Mississippi; Fred Schwartz, Samuel Rinzler, Max Yellen and J. Meyer Schine, New York; William Sears and H. W. Workman, Minnesota; and Ted Schlanger, Moe Silver, Sidney Samuelson, Pennsylvania.

Circuit chairman Joseph R. Vogel has reported that two-thirds of all circuits of 10 or more theatres have pledged to book the strongest available attractions Jan. 25-31.

Up to yesterday, the total number of theatres pledged was 12,739.

'IA' Board Not to Act On Managers' Union

(*Continued from page* 1)

ferred to members at the next IATSE national convention, he announced. One matter being studied by the board, according to Walsh, is the encouragement of more stage shows.

Mrs. Ivan Abramson

Mrs. L. Einhorn Abramson, 88, retired actress and singer, died Sunday night at Lutheran Hospital here. She was the widow of Ivan Abramson, former motion picture producer and, in the silent film era, appeared in some of her husband's films. Surviving are a son, David H. Gould of Hollywood, two brothers and a sister.

Warners' Best Foot Forward in Booklet

Warners' home office advertising-publicity staff is telling it to the exhibitor these days through a gay little cartoon yarn, just off the press, depicting the Hollywood adventures of "Joe from Mo." (a "Happy Hollow, Missouri," exhibitor who, true to the tradition of his state, goes to the Coast to find out for himself about new product).

Joe, in quite a few red-and-black pages, checks Gallup-wise into the problem of what company he should buy from. He consults the cop, the cab driver, the soda clerk, the shoeshine boy, the panhandler, the caddy, and finally a fat little pink elephant in a bar. He looks into coming films, novels and plays purchased, actors, writers, producers and directors on the roll, and Oscars in the bag. Joe returns home with his mind made up and the folks there are so pleased with the results that they elect him to a string of local offices.

Jack L. Warner, in a foreword, relates that the company's policy is to make pictures that will reflect credit on the exhibitor. "Joe from Mo." was created and sent on his happy way by the staff under Mort Blumenstock, Eastern advertising and publicity director. T. L.

Harry Wurtzel Dies

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16.—Harry Wurtzel, 51, talent agent, brother of Sol Ben, Sam and Henry Wurtzel, died of a heart attack at his home here today. Also surviving are his widow and daughter, Mrs. Edythe Ziffren. Services will be held on Thursday.

Favor Blocks, 20% Option

(*Continued from page* 1)

announced objective of seeing that the sale of one picture is not conditioned upon the sale of another, but feels that 'teeth' should be put into this provision if it is incorporated into a revised consent decree. He cited alleged forcing of shorts in his territory, despite the original decree provision to the contrary, and estimated that Carolina exhibitors overbuy shorts 50 per cent more than they require because of 'pressure.'

Hearn, who is a member of the MPTOA, advanced a proposal for exhibitor associations to maintain a special representative in New York to carry the complaints of independents, regardless of affiliation, direct to home offices. This representative, Hearn asserted, would have to be one who both speaks the distributors' language and understands the independents' problems. Hearn also is in favor of exhibitors submitting their trade problems to informed trade people before resorting to formal arbitration before arbitrators not familiar with the trade.

New Combine Function

Booking and buying organizations, originally formed to obtain better deals than was possible for the individual exhibitor, are now serving a new function securing better service on print availability.

Peak business has definitely passed; grosses commenced to decline about Thanksgiving, Hearn said. Product is abundant in his single-feature selling territory.

Building after the war bids fair to achieve the proportions of a near boom in his territory, Hearn claimed, citing "at least 25 exhibitors" who have purchased property with a view to building.

"If and when television comes, the exhibitor will welcome it, but he is not showing any concern over it at the moment," Hearn concluded.

Joseph Named PIC Western Chairman

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16.—John Joseph of Universal today was elected chairman of the Public Information Committee, Western division, for six months, succeeding Harry Brand of 20th Century-Fox.

PIC unanimously approved a report submitted by its international committee, pledging that studio publicity directors in the future will observe an international, rather than a strictly domestic, viewpoint. Close cooperation with foreign press correspondents was agreed upon.

Sears Names Kamber Assistant on WAC

(*Continued from page* 1)

zer on many phases of distributors' WAC setup for future patriotic industry drives. Kamber is director of special events at U.A. and will continue in that capacity.

With Schnitzer now visiting U.A. Southern exchanges, on both company and WAC business, Kamber assumes his new duties immediately, assisting national distributor chairman Sears.

We thank you...for being as enthusiastic as we are about "Tomorrow-The World!"

"One of the best of Hollywood's dramatic achievements!" —N. Y. DAILY NEWS

"This is a strong picture, with plenty of laughter to ease the tenseness. It is striking entertainment!" —N. Y. SUN

"Taut and engrossing melodrama. Takes its place among the best of the year's pictures!" —N. Y. JOURNAL-AMERICAN

"One of the ten best pictures of the year!" —N. Y. WORLD-TELEGRAM

"Nerve-tingling and explosive. Superbly produced!" —N. Y. PM

"The hit picture of 1945!" —DREW PEARSON—BLUE NETWORK

"Four bells—a must see picture!" —JIMMY FIDLER

Lester Cowan presents

FREDRIC MARCH · BETTY FIELD

in

"TOMORROW—THE WORLD!"

with

AGNES MOOREHEAD · Joan Carroll · Edit Angold

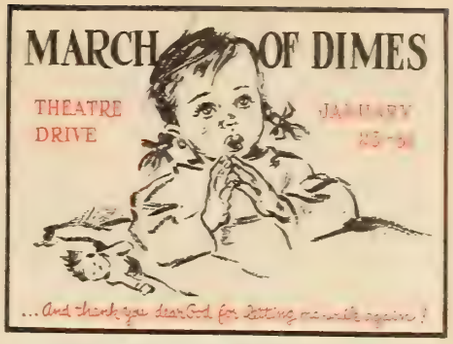
and the sensational SKIPPY HOMEIER

Directed by Leslie Fenton · Based on the Broadway Stage Success by James Gow and Arnaud D'Usseau

Another U. A. Hit now doing Top Business at the Globe Theatre, New York, World Premiere Showing!

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

VOL. 57. NO. 13 — NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1945 — TEN CENTS



Reagan Calls Nine Regional Sales Meetings

Smith, Lee and Gillham Will Tour with Him

For the first time since he was named vice-president in charge of Paramount distribution, nearly a year ago, Charles M. Reagan will visit the company's Hollywood studio to map new product plans, and subsequently will tour the nine sales district headquarters in the field, conducting regional sales meetings in each.

Charles M. Reagan

Reagan will leave New York for Chicago today, and accompanied by George A. Smith, Western division manager, and

(Continued on page 3)

WB Creates New Division

Ben Kalmenson, general sales manager for Warner Bros., announced yesterday that, with a view to providing more effective concentration of sales and distribution services in one of the largest trading areas in the country, Warners' Southern and Southwestern distribution map has been altered to provide two district offices in place of the present headquarters in Atlanta.

Atlanta will remain as the head of-

(Continued on page 9)

WB Not in Trade Foreign Group

"Warner Bros. intends to keep its own identity abroad and will continue to operate its own offices in all countries in which we do business," Wolfe Cohen, vice-president of Warners' International Corp. in charge of Latin-American, Australia and the Far East, said yesterday in discussing

(Continued on page 3)

MGM, RKO, 20th in Joint Dubbing Plan

RKO will launch production here of Spanish dubbed films within the next few months and will produce them 'in association' with M-G-M and 20th Century-Fox.

The companies will use Spanish Synchronizations' studios, formerly the old Lopert studios here, and a stock company of Mexican and Argentine players, assembled by Metro.

AAA Given 30 Days To Answer Arthur

St. Louis, Jan. 17.—An additional 30 days in which to answer the complaint filed in U. S. District Court by Harry Arthur, Jr.'s St. Louis Amusement Co. against the American Arbitration Association and five producer-distributors has been granted here. Arthur's action is directed against that portion of the consent decree which provides for arbitration, claiming the section is unconstitutional, and asking damages for previous AAA rulings against the plaintiff.

Arthur had sought leave to intervene in the consent decree proceedings in New York, but Judge Henry W. Goddard, approving the AAA practices verbally in court, denied the intervention application from the bench. Arthur indicated that he plans to appeal that decision directly to the Supreme Court in Washington.

Meanwhile, the five consenting companies are attempting to work out

(Continued on page 9)

U. S., Britain Near Set On Double Taxes

Washington, Jan. 17. — Representatives of the U. S. Internal Revenue Bureau and the British Treasury, who for some time have been discussing problems of double taxation, were reported today to be in close agreement as to the content of a proposed treaty which may serve to relieve the American film industry of some of the financial burdens under which it has been operating in the United Kingdom.

The projected treaty, which must go to the Senate for ratification, will follow along the lines of an agreement made with the French Government just before the outbreak of the war, and approved by the Senate shortly before it adjourned last year.

While the pact will be general in nature, designed to relieve the nation-

(Continued on page 3)

5 Companies Out in Murray Damage Suit

Chicago, Jan. 17.—Paramount, Universal, Columbia, Balaban and Katz, Warners, Monogram of Illinois, Louis Reinheimer and Morris G. Leonard were yesterday dismissed as defendants in the Thomas A. Murray $1,000,000 conspiracy suit in Federal Court here. Judge William H. Holly dismissed from the bench on all except Warners and Monogram, acting

(Continued on page 9)

"A Song to Remember"

[*Columbia*]

Any scoffers who find themselves unable to believe that classical music, specifically that of Chopin, with a little Liszt on the side, cannot be assimilated by the screen with results that are distinctly fortunate for both production and the box office, should not pause to read reviews of "A Song to Remember." They would do better to see the picture for themselves and, so doing, be convinced.

In this screen dramatization of Chopin's life the great music of the artist is foremost. Yet never before, perhaps, have classicism and cinema been more favorably mated. Each augments the other with their special virtues, with the result that no devotee of the screen likely will be abashed by this heady innoculation of Chopin, nor music lover with this brand of motion picture. It achieves, not only with success, but with distinction, the praiseworthy aim of bringing the concert hall to the film theatre, where it is certain to be welcomed by the patrons of both.

The central drama in Sidney Buchman's screenplay is the contest waged for dominant influence in Chopin's life by Paul Muni as his lifelong friend and

(Continued on page 9)

Ask Essential Classification Of Booth Men

But Little Hope Seen After WMC Meeting

Washington, Jan. 17. — Faced with new labor difficulties as a result of the military program for the drafting of 900,000 men during the first half of this year, representatives of the theatre industry today renewed their appeal to the War Manpower Commission to classify projectionists as essential.

The case for the exhibitors was submitted by Harry Brandt and Si Fabian of New York, at a meeting with Collis Stocking, chief of the WMC Reports and Analysis Service, with representatives of the Army, Navy, Office of War Information and War Production Board also present.

The plight of theatres, if the new draft program should take their operators, was presented by the exhibitor representatives. Their position

(Continued on page 3)

Seek to Avoid Newsreel Cut

Seeking to effect a further cut in the raw stock for the five newsreels, yet apparently anxious to avoid allocations which would seriously affect their twice-weekly release, the War Production Board is understood to have asked the five company heads to furnish full figures on the number of newsreel prints needed weekly.

George J. Schaefer, chairman of the War Activities Committee, and industry liaison with the WPB, is now in

(Continued on page 9)

Wobber Set to Make 20th-Fox Sales Tour

Herman Wobber, 20th Century-Fox sales executive, now doing a survey for the U. S. Navy, will shortly visit company branches as 'Anniversary Month' campaign leader. Wobber expects to start next week, accompanied by Roger Ferri, editor of 20th Century-Fox's *Dynamo*. At each branch,

(Continued on page 9)

MPOE Delays Tieup With AFL Group

Motion Picture Office Employes Union, Local 23,169, AFL, representing over 800 'white collar' workers in Warner, Universal and Paramount News home offices, will take no immediate action to affiliate itself with the newly-organized Office Workers International Union of the AFL, Russell Moss, MPOE business agent, disclosed here yesterday.

Moss attended the recent convention of the Office Workers International Union, in Cincinnati, and expressed dissatisfaction with the per capita dues levy of the new union, as well as the jurisdictional situation. MPOE holds a charter from the AFL.

Determination of the new MPOE executive board, on which balloting was held last Monday, is expected tomorrow. New officers elected include: Samuel R. Kahn, president; Irving Zimmerman, vice-president; Claire Barnett, general secretary; Edward Lawson, treasurer; Nathan Salzman, sergeant-at-arms. Officers reelected include: Lillian Cotton, financial secretary; Norman Goldberg, recording secretary. Moss is executive vice-president and business manager.

First SPU Meet With Producers on Monday

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 17.—The Screen Players Union today announced that its first meeting with the producers for the purpose of negotiating an employment contract has been set for next Monday.

The Screen Actors Guild tonight took steps to assure A-junior members a voice in the management of Guild affairs. Under the Guild's interpretation, applied since the Class B members voted for SPU in preference to SAG, all members are now engaged in "acting work" and therefore are entitled to full representation.

UA Sales Meeting in Phila. Tomorrow

Sam Lefkowitz, United Artists New York district manager, will leave for Philadelphia tomorrow for the last of three meetings with branch managers and salesmen in his territory.

Lefkowitz will wind up his meeting with the New York sales staff today. Earlier this week he conferred with exchange representatives in Washington.

Variety Gives $5,000

BUFFALO, Jan. 17.—Local Variety has presented $5,000 to Children's Hospital here for the installation of an electro-encephalograph. Presentation was made by Elmer F. Lux, chief barker and RKO branch manager here.

Hope Gets Award

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 17.—Bob Hope, for "his notable deeds at the war fronts and in training camps," received the Poor Richard Club's gold Medal of Achievement here tonight.

Personal Mention

PAT CASEY, producers' labor representative, is en route to the Coast after a visit of several months in New York.

•

ROY WHITE, son of MAURICE WHITE, head of United Theatres, Cincinnati, has left for training with the U. S. Army Air Corps. Another son, MARVIN, is also in the AAF.

•

NAT LEVY, RKO Eastern division sales manager, will join ROBERT FOLLIARD in Dallas today, where they will address a Ned Depinet drive meeting.

•

WALTER E. BRANSON, RKO Western division sales manager, has returned to New York from a trip through his territory.

•

CAPT. JOHN O'LEARY, son of J. J. O'LEARY, president of Comerford Theatres, is a patient in a hospital in Italy.

•

IRVIN DEER, field representative for the MPPDA, will address the Chicago Better Film Council tomorrow.

•

JOSEPH M. SEIDER, head of Prudential Playhouse, and MRS. SEIDER, have left for a vacation in Florida.

•

OSCAR HANSON, president of Monogram Pictures of Canada, is here from Toronto.

•

FRED F. FINKLEHOFFE, M-G-M producer-director, has arrived in New York.

•

MAURICE WHITE, head of United Theatres, Cincinnati, is in New York.

•

B. P. FINEMAN, producer, will arrive in New York tomorrow.

LEO J. McCARTHY, PRC general sales manager, and ROBERTO SOCAS, foreign sales head, are scheduled to leave for the Coast next Monday.

•

ROBERT J. GARLAND, assistant to the president of Fox Intermountain Theatres, Denver, has been elected to succeed FRANK H. RICKETSON, JR., as president of the Rocky Mountain Screen Club.

•

A. A. WARD, vice-president and general manager of Altec Lansing Corp., is en route to Hollywood with stopovers in Washington and Chicago.

•

J. LOUIS ROME, owner of the Rome Circuit, Baltimore, has returned to Sinai Hospital there for further treatment.

•

JOHN F. KIRBY, Paramount Atlanta district manager, left for that city yesterday following home office conferences.

•

SIDNEY S. KULICK, PRC Eastern sales manager, will return tomorrow from a tour of exchanges.

•

JOE FIELDS, owner of the Rivoli and Embassy theatres, Baltimore, has left there for the West Coast.

•

HENDERSON M. RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor relations head, will leave Saturday for Charlotte.

•

HARRY MICHALSON, RKO short subjects sales manager, has left for Pittsburgh.

•

MORRIS MECHANIC, owner of the New Theatre, Baltimore, is in New York.

Boyer Group Will Aid French Business Men

French Research Foundation, Inc., organized by Charles Boyer, has joined in the sponsorship of the House of France program, a plan under which French business men living in this country will bring to the U. S. groups of young French business men and technicians for grounding in American methods, according to an announcement from the French American Committee here yesterday.

Similarly, American business men in France will set up a House of America and bring in young Americans for training there. The governments will have no part in financing or controlling the project.

359,800 Shares of RKO Offered, Sold

Dillon Read and Co. offered as a secondary distribution yesterday 359,800 shares of RKO common stock at 9½, with a concession to recognized dealers of 37½ cents a share. The stock was completely distributed. The offering, for Rockefeller Center, Inc., was forecast by MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 5.

Demand Money Back From Browne, Bioff

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 17.—A demand that George Browne and Willie Bioff be made to account for and return all money collected from IATSE members under a two per cent assessment is addressed to the international board of IATSE in a resolution passed by the international sound technicians local 695 and dispatched today to all IATSE locals and convention delegates.

The resolution succeeds and reinforces one passed last week urging the Senate judiciary committee to summon Browne and Bioff for an examination into the disposition of approximately $2,000,000 collected by the assessment.

Consider 'Oaks' Film

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., is considering a plan for a film to educate Americans on the significance of our participation in the projected Dumbarton Oaks security organization. He discussed it with War Activities Committee representatives in New York recently, and script research has begun.

Schenck Will Speak At 'Dimes' Opening

Details for the dedication of a Times Square March of Dimes display, which will open the industry's campaign on Jan. 25, were mapped at a meeting of the drive publicity committee here yesterday at War Activities headquarters. Opening ceremonies will consist of a parade with military bands, stars of screen and stage, addresses by Mayor F. H. LaGuardia, Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation, Nicholas M. Schenck, national industry chairman, and the exhibition of the "Miracle of Hickory" trailer, which will be run continuously.

Each day a different Broadway theatre will be in charge of securing contributions to the several hundred glass jars to be featured in the display. A trolley run from Columbus Circle to Times Square with Gus Van as motorman, a band, and screen, radio and stage stars will also be a highlight. On Jan. 27 a 'Conga line' will parade from 50th Street to Times Square, with all participating contributing a dime or more. Line will be headed by a band and stars.

Present at the publicity meeting were: Ernest Emerling, Mike Siegel, Al Naroff, Paul Sherman, Sid Gross, Bill Slater, Vincent Liguori, Ira Morais, John Cassidy, Janice Rentchler, Paula Gould, Sam Coolick, Jay Burton, Sid Kain, Arthur Price, Bill Steckman.

Stars to Participate In 'Dimes' Air Show

Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Jack Benny, Joan Edwards, Judy Garland, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, and others will appear on a full hour special variety program over a major network in support of the 1945 'March of Dimes' campaign, on Jan. 30. The program titled "America Salutes the President on His Birthday," will have Quentin Reynolds as master of ceremonies.

May Pick A. J. Law's Successor Monday

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 17.—Southern California Theatre Owners Association directors will meet here Monday to map organizational procedure. It is understood that the selection of a successor to the late Albert J. Law, to carry on with his conciliation program, will be the principal business at the meeting.

The Law trade grievance conciliation plan, which has already been adopted by SCTOA locally, was submitted to Wendell Berge of the U. S. Department of Justice in Washington in late December and reportedly received favorable consideration. Law was in the midst of negotiations with film executives in New York when he died there on Jan. 1.

Hersholt to Denmark

CHICAGO, Jan. 17.—Jean Hersholt will visit Denmark in the post war period to survey his native country's relief needs. Hersholt is president of American Denmark Relief, here.

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Short Subject Review

"Balkan Powder Keg"

(UA-World in Action)

Timely attention to Europe's 'powder keg,' the six countries in the Balkan peninsula is given in this latest "World in Action" film, produced by the National Film Board of Canada. Its timing couldn't have been more appropriate.

A comprehensive and succinct commentary, written by Stuart Legg, who also edited, traces the historical course of the Balkans from the time the Ottoman Empire drove northward into Europe 50 years ago, down to modern times, when Sarajevo, in Serbia, lit the world fire of 1914. The film succeeds in highlighting the fateful events of the last four decades and outlines the intrigues of bankrupt Balkan monarchies to retain power after World War I; the spread of Fascist and Nazi theories among the people of 19 different races in the six countries; the rise of partisans in World War II who fight side by side with the Allies. It concludes with the hope that the United Nations will help the Balkan peoples to develop democratic forms of government in the postwar. Running time, 18 minutes.

WB Not in Trade Foreign Group

(Continued from page 1)

whether Warners would become part of the so-called distributor foreign trade organization which is now under consideration.

Cohen, who recently returned from a six-week trip to Mexico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Venezuela and Panama, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that conditions in Mexico are excellent and that the industry there is headed for the greatest prosperity it has ever known.

Mexicans, and Latin-Americans as a whole, are shopping for quality, and a poor Mexican or American film will suffer equally, he said, citing Warners' 300 per cent increase over some years ago when Class 'A' and 'B' films were released.

Cohen anticipates a heavy building boom, after the war, in Mexico. "As soon as we can get equipment we will erect a 2,500 seater on a site we have now in Mexico City," he said.

Dubbing Doubles Time

Cohen expects that releases dubbed in Spanish will double the playing time of those which employ subtitles and foresees titled versions eventually forced off the market there. Warners, which released 16-18 films last year in this territory, has 12 dubbed films finished, in work or preparation, he said.

Conditions in Cuba are similar to Mexico, Cohen said, with new theatres expected to replace many old ones. Warners has no plans for production in Mexico, Cohen concluded.

Cohen plans to leave New York again on Jan. 26 for a trip through his territories, with a stopover in Panama, where he will hold a sales meeting for managers and supervisors of nearby countries.

Cohen's first stop on leaving New York will be the Burbank studio, followed by Mexico City and Panama. Among those attending conferences there will be Peter Colli, Havana, supervisor for Cuba, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and Panama; Armando Trucios, from Lima, Peru, who has been appointed supervisor for Ecuador, Bolivia and Colombia as well as Peru; Lester Cohen, formerly manager in Trinidad, who is taking up his new post as manager for Panama and Central American countries and Stanley Gaiter, manager for Colombia, who will come from Cali.

Following the Panama meeting, Cohen will sail for Sydney, Australia.

Reagan Calls Nine Para. Regional Sales Meetings

(Continued from page 1)

Claude Lee, director of public relations, on the first leg of the transcontinental trip. Reagan, Smith and Lee will be joined in Chicago by R. M. Gillham, director of publicity-advertising. The four are scheduled to arrive in Hollywood on Jan. 22.

Since a national sales convention to discuss pending problems is not permissible under war transportation conditions, Reagan will not only hold the series of regional meetings with field sales executives, but will also meet with exhibitors.

At the studio, Reagan and his party will confer on product plans with Y. Frank Freeman and Henry Ginsberg, studio and production executives, and will meet with Paramount's independent producers: Hal Wallis, B. G. De Sylva, Cecil B. DeMille, William Pine and William Thomas.

Will Preview Films

While at the studio the executives will see a number of pictures: "Road to Utopia"; the first two Wallis pictures, "The Affairs of Susan" and "Love Letters"; "Out of This World," "Salty O'Rourke," "Incendiary Blonde," "Miss Susie Slagle's," "Duffy's Tavern" and "The Lost Weekend."

Following the studio visit, the home office executives will leave on Jan. 27 for the first meeting, at the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, Monday, Jan. 29. In addition to division manager Smith, attending will be: Del Goodman, Los Angeles district manager, and branch managers C. J. Bell, Los Angeles; H. Neal East, San Francisco; Herbert Kaufman, Seattle; James A. Clark, Portland, and salesmen and head bookers of the four exchanges. A luncheon for exhibitors will be held at the St. Francis on Tuesday, Jan. 30.

Meetings in Denver and Kansas City will follow. The Denver meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 1, either at the Brown Palace or Cosmopolitan hotel. The following will attend: Hugh Braly, Denver district manager; branch managers Harry H. Haas, Denver; F. H. Smith, Salt Lake City; J. T. McBride, Omaha; Robert Blair, district advertising representative, and salesmen and head bookers of the three exchanges. An exhibitors' luncheon will likewise be held the following day.

Kansas City sessions will be on Monday, Feb. 5, at the Hotel Muehlebach, with district manager C. LiBeau of Kansas City, and branch managers Maurice Schweitzer, St. Louis; Harry Hamburg, Des Moines; R. M. Copeland, Kansas City; James Castle, district advertising representative, and salesmen and head bookers of those branches. A luncheon for exhibitors will be held on Tuesday at the Hotel Muehlebach.

Dallas Feb. 8

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, Reagan and the home office executives will leave for Dallas, where meetings will start the following day in the Central division. James J. Donohue, Central division manager, will meet Reagan in Dallas for meetings there on Feb. 8, in Chicago on Feb. 12, and Cleveland, Feb. 14.

Meetings in the Eastern division will follow, with William Erbb, Eastern division manager, accompanying Reagan. These sessions will be in New York on Feb. 20, in Philadelphia, Feb. 21-27, and in Atlanta, March 8-9.

Reagan will discuss new product and studio activities at all meetings. Both he and Lee will outline plans for closer contact with the company's customers.

Paramount Here Is Booked to Labor Day

The Times Square Paramount Theatre here, is booked clear to Labor Day, it was disclosed yesterday by Robert M. Weitman, managing director. Following the current run of "Here Come the Waves," which closes Feb. 6, "Ministry of Fear" will open. Following that, "Bring On the Girls" will have its premiere with "Practically Yours" coming in for the Easter holiday. The remainder of the schedule, up to Labor Day, includes: "Salty O'Rourke," "A Medal for Benny," "Out of This World," "Incendiary Blonde" and "Murder, He Says."

U.S. and Britain Near Set on Double Taxes

(Continued from page 1)

als of each country from taxation in both their own and the other country on business transactions in the latter, it is expected, like the French agreement, to deal specifically with royalties, the diplomatic term for the revenue derived from the exhibition of motion pictures.

The French treaty provided that royalties, derived from within one of the contracting countries by a resident or business of the other, shall be exempt from taxation in the former, unless the copyright owner has a permanent establishment there, in which event the enterprise shall be taxed the same as domestic enterprises.

WE's Dietz to Retire

J. Walter Dietz, industrial relations manager of Western Electric's manufacturing department, will retire from WE on Jan. 31. Dietz, who joined Western Electric in 1902, has been on leave of absence for the past four years to hold an executive position in the Government's industrial training program, now part of the War Manpower Commission. He will continue in that capacity.

Top 'GI' Priorities: Blood, Nimitz, Films

Hollywood, Jan. 17.—Enthusiasm displayed by troops overseas for the industry's gift pictures was emphasized here yesterday by Francis S. Harmon, WAC coordinator, who, speaking at a luncheon-meeting of WAC board members, related the story of a Naval officer just returned from an inspection tour of the Pacific, who reported: "Blood and Admiral Nimitz get top priority out there; next come motion pictures, mail and ammunition."

Hubbell Will Report On Army Gift Films

What Hollywood-donated films the 'GI's' on the front in France and Italy rate highest, the methods used to show films to front-line troops, and how much 'film-saturation' the battle areas get are some of the points that will be covered by Major John W. Hubbell of the Signal Corps' Army Pictorial Service at a press conference to be held here tomorrow.

Major Hubbell is back from a tour of the European Theatre where he inspected the work done by Army Pictorial Service, among other things, with distributing films contributed to the Army by the film industry.

Another phase of the Army Pictorial Services' work which Major Hubbell will discuss is combat photography, including motion pictures which the public has seen in newsreels.

Seek Essential Class For Booth Operators

(Continued from page 1)

was given some support by the OWI and WPB, which recognize the importance of uninterrupted film service, but the military representatives, while expressing their recognition of the needs of the exhibitors, stressed also the needs of the Armed Forces for men to bring the war to a quick conclusion.

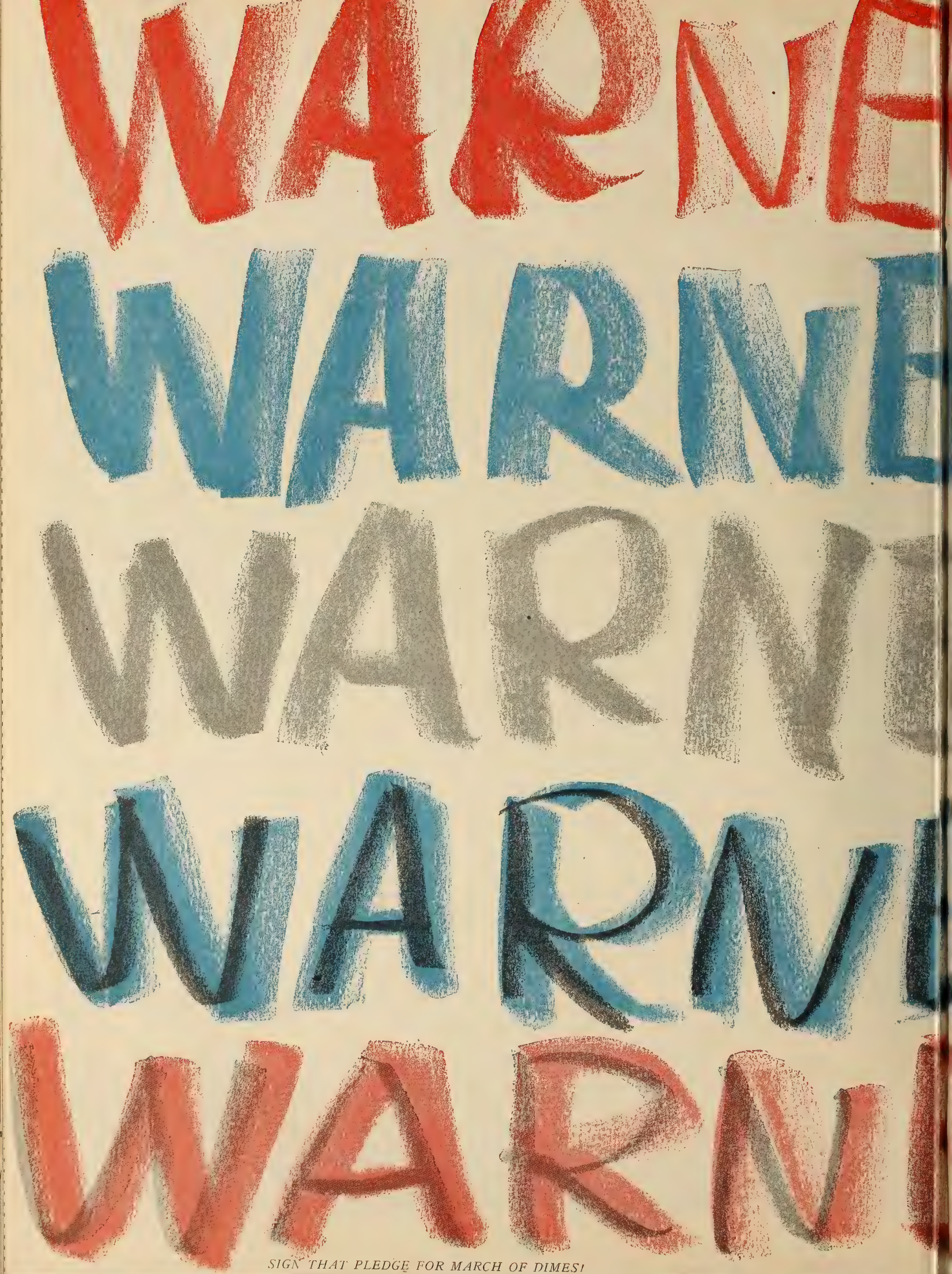
Brandt submitted a petition to have basically needed theatre workers placed on the essential activities list. It was received by Stocking without comment, and indications were that it would meet the same reception as given several times in the past to similar pleas.

A spokesman for the WMC said the case of the theatres has been brought up several times in the past year or so and that the agency has never felt it appropriate to give theatre workers a formal classification as essential, although it has permitted regional officials to treat them as locally needed.

War Labor Recruiting Picture Opens Here

"What's Your Name," Army Pictorial Service short, made at the request of the War Department to stimulate war labor recruiting, opened here yesterday at the Victoria and Roxy; today it will open at 19 more local theatres. The six houses of Newsreel Theatres will start tomorrow.

20th Century-Fox is distributing the film, which is a War Activities Committee release.



SIGN THAT PLEDGE FOR MARCH OF DIMES!

HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN

OBJECTIVE BURMA

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT

ROUGHLY SPEAKING

GOD IS MY CO-PILOT

JACK L. WARNER, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Republic's Roy Rogers

NUMBER 4
OF ALL TOP
MONEY-MAKING
MALE STARS
in
SHOWMEN'S
TRADE REVIEW
Leaders
OF THE
MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

AND OF COURSE, ROY IS No. 1

Takes A Bow

LEADING STARS

From Showmen's Leaders Poll

1 *BING CROSBY*
2 *GARY COOPER*
3 *SPENCER TRACY*
4. **ROY ROGERS**
5 *CARY GRANT*
6 *ABBOTT & COSTELLO*
7 *BOB HOPE*
8 *VAN JOHNSON*
9 *HUMPHREY BOGART*
10 *MICKEY ROONEY*

REPUBLIC PICTURES

IN Leaders WESTERN POLL

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Dec. 23	DANCING IN MANHATTAN Fred Brady Jeff Donnell C—60 mins. (6038) (Rev. 12/21/44) TAHITI NIGHTS Dave O'Brien Jinx Falkenburg C—(6025)	(Ninth Block) THE THIN MAN GOES HOME William Powell Myrna Loy C—100 mins. (513) (Rev. 11/24/44)	BOWERY CHAMPS East Side Kids D—62 mins. (409) (Rev. 11/16/44)	(Special Reissue) THE SIGN OF THE CROSS Fredric March Claudette Colbert D—118 mins. (4432) (Rev. 8/23/44)	CASTLE OF CRIMES (British) Keneth Kent Diana Churchill Belle Chrystall D—60 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44)	THE BIG BONANZA Richard Arlen D—69 mins. (407) (Rev. 1/10/44)	(Special Release) THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW (International) E. G. Robinson Joan Bennett Raymond Massey D—99 mins. (582) (Rev. 10/10/44)	(Special Release) WILSON (Color) Alexander Knox Geraldine Fitzgerald D—154 mins. (530) (Rev. 8/2/44)	TOMORROW THE WORLD Fredric March Skippy Homeier (Rev. 12/18/44)	DESTINY Gloria Jean Alan Curtis Grace McDonald D—65 mins. (Rev. 12/7/44)	
Dec. 30	LET'S GO STEADY Pat Parrish Jackie Moran June Preisser C—60 mins. (6039)	MAIN STREET AFTER DARK Edward Arnold Selena Royle D—57 mins. (514) (Rev. 11/28/44)		(Second Block) FRENCHMAN'S CREEK (Color) Joan Fontaine Arturo de Cordova D—113 mins. (4408) (Rev. 9/20/44)	THE WHISPERING SKULL (Texas Rangers) O—55 mins.	SHERIFF OF LAS VEGAS 66 mins.—O (3316) (Rev. 1/3/45)	(Special Release) CASANOVA BROWN (International) Gary Cooper Teresa Wright C—92 mins. (581) (Rev. 8/1/44)		I'LL BE SEEING YOU Ginger Rogers Joseph Cotten D—85 mins. (Rev. 12/19/44)	CAN'T HELP SINGING (Color) Deanna Durbin Robert Paige Akim Tamiroff M—88mins. (9071) (Rev. 12/14/44)	
Jan. 6	YOUTH ON TRIAL Cora Sue Collins David Reed Eric Sinclair D—59 mins. (6041)	MUSIC FOR MILLIONS Margaret O'Brien Jose Iturbi M—118 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/13/44)	ARMY WIVES Elyse Knox Rick Vallin D—67 mins. (414) (Rev.12/5/44)	MINISTRY OF FEAR Ray Milland Marjorie Reynolds D—84 mins. (4410) (Rev. 10/18/44)			(First Block) MY PAL WOLF Jill Esmond Una O'Connor D—69 mins. (505) (Rev. 9/21/44)			NIGHT CLUB GIRL Vivian Austin Edward Norris M—60 mins. (9035) (Rev. 12/8/44)	HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN All-Star Cast M—123 mins. (409) (Rev. 12/5/44)
Jan. 13	EADIE WAS A LADY Joe Besser Hal McIntyre and Orchestra C—67 mins.	BLONDE FEVER Philip Dorn Mary Astor C—69 mins. (516) (Rev. 11/28/44)	ADVENTURES Of KITTY O'DAY Jean Parker D—63 mins. (420) (Rev. 12/8/44)	THE MAN IN HALF-MOON STREET Nils Asther Helen Walker D—92 mins. (4407) (Rev. 10/17/44)		GRISSLY'S MILLIONS Paul Kelly Virginia Grey D—71 mins. (409) (Rev. 1/15/45)	NONE BUT THE LONELY HEART Cary Grant Ethel Barrymore D—113 mins. (501) (Rev. 10/2/44) GOIN' TO TOWN Lum and Abner C—75 mins. (504) (Rev. 9/25/44)	(Fifth Block) (Dec. Release) WINGED VICTORY Edmond O'Brien Jeanne Crain D—130 min. (512) (Rev. 11/22/44)	MR. EMMANUEL (British) Felix Aylmer Greta Gynt D—92 mins. (Rev. 1/4/45)	SHE GETS HER MAN Joan Davis William Gargan Leon Errol C—74 mins. (Rev. 1/5/45)	
Jan. 20	I LOVE A MYSTERY Jim Bannon Barton Yarborough Nina Foch D	BETWEEN TWO WOMEN Van Johnson Lionel Barrymore D—82 mins. (518) (Rev. 12/21/44)	JADE MASK Sidney Toler D—66 mins. (417)	AND NOW TOMORROW Loretta Young Alan Ladd D—85 mins. (4406) (Rev. 10/17/44)		THE BIG SHOW-OFF Arthur Lake Dale Evans C—70 mins. (410) (Rev.1/16/45)	TALL IN THE SADDLE John Wayne O—87 mins. (503) (Rev. 9/26/44) THE MASTER RACE George Coulouris D—96 mins. (502) (Rev. 8/21/44)	SUNDAY DINNER FOR A SOLDIER Anne Baxter John Hodiak D—86 mins. (513) (Rev. 12/6/44)		UNDER WESTERN SKIES Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. Leo Carrillo O—57 mins. (9039) (Rev. 1/3/45)	TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT Humphrey Bogart Lauren Bacall D—100 mins. (410) (Rev. 10/11/44)
Jan. 27	SAGEBRUSH HEROES Charles Starrett O	NOTHING BUT TROUBLE Laurel and Hardy C—69 mins. (519) (Rev. 12/5/44)	THEY SHALL HAVE FAITH Gale Storm C. Aubrey Smith D—83 mins. (Rev. 12/13/44)	ONE BODY TOO MANY Jack Haley Jean Parker C—76 mins. (4409) (Rev. 10/18/44)	HIS BROTHER'S GHOST O—58 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) MARKED FOR MURDER O—56 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) KID SISTER Judy Clark D		(Second Block) EXPERIMENT PERILOUS Hedy Lamarr George Brent D—91 mins. (510) (Rev. 12/6/44) MURDER, MY SWEET Anne Shirley Dick Powell D—95 mins. (508) (Rev. 12/6/44)	(Jan. Release) KEYS OF THE KINGDOM Gregory Peck Thomas Mitchell D—137 mins. (514) (Rev. 12/13/44)		HERE COME THE CO-EDS Abbott and Costello Phil Spitalny and Orch. C	
Feb. 3	SING ME A SONG OF TEXAS Rosemary Lane Hal McIntyre Orch. M	THIS MAN'S NAVY Wallace Beery James Gleason D—98 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/4/45)	CISCO KID RETURNS Duncan Renaldo O	(Third Block) HERE COME THE WAVES Bing Crosby Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts M—97 mins. (4411) (Rev. 12/18/44)			GIRL RUSH C—65 mins (506) (Rev. 10/25/44) NEVADA O—62 mins. (509) (Rev. 12/11/44) THE FALCON IN HOLLYWOOD D—67 mins. (507) (Rev. 12/5/44)	THE FIGHTING LADY (Color) (documentary) 61 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/21/44)		HER LUCKY NIGHT Andrews Sisters Martha O'Driscoll M	
Feb. 10		(Special Release) 30 SECONDS OVER TOKYO Spencer Tracy Van Johnson D—138 mins. (511) (Rev. 11/14/44)	GUN SMOKE Johnny Mack Brown O—58 mins. (455)	DANGEROUS PASSAGE Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4412) (Rev. 12/21/44)	SPELL OF AMY NUGENT (English) Derek Farr D		(Special) THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE (Goldwyn) (Color) Bob Hope Virginia Mayo C—94 mins. (551) (Rev. 10/11/44)	THE WAY AHEAD (British) David Niven Raymond Huntley D—115 mins. (511)		THE HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN Boris Karloff John Carradine D—71 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44)	
Feb. 17	LEAVE IT TO BLONDIE Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C		DILLINGER Elisha Cook Jr. Lawrence Tierney D	FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS (Color) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—158 mins. (4413) (Rev. 7/15/43)	FOG ISLAND Lionel Atwill George Zucco D		(Special Release) BELLE OF THE YUKON (International) (Color) Randolph Scott Gypsy Rose Lee Dinah Shore C—84 mins. (583) (Rev. 11/29/44)	(Feb. Release) A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN Dorothy McGuire Joan Blondell D—128 mins. (517)		THE MUMMY'S CURSE Lon Chaney D—60 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44)	OBJECTIVE, BURMA Errol Flynn D
Feb. 24	THE CRIME DOCTOR'S COURAGE Warner Baxter Hilary Brooke D	(Special Release) MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS (Color) Judy Garland Margaret O'Brien M—113 mins. (512) (Rev. 11/1/44)		PRACTICALLY YOURS Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray C—90 mins. (4414) (Rev. 12/15/44)	HOLLYWOOD AND VINE James Ellison Wanda McKay D			HANGOVER SQUARE Laird Cregar Linda Darnell D—77 mins. (516) (Rev. 1/17/45)		FRISCO SAL Susanna Foster Turhan Bey M	
Mar. 3			GI HONEY-MOON Gale Storm Peter Cookson D	DOUBLE EXPOSURE Chester Morris Nancy Kelly D—63 mins. (4415) (Rev. 12/21/44)						I'LL TELL THE WORLD Lee Tracy Brenda Joyce C	

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama. (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action Production Numbers Are in Parentheses.

Wobber Set to Make 20th-Fox Sales Tour

(Continued from page 1)

meetings will be held with branch and sales personnel.

Meanwhile, Earl Wingart has been designated co-ordinator at the home office publicity office of 20th Century-Fox by Hal Horne, director of advertising, publicity and exploitation, and Gabe Yorke has been given an identical position at the studio by Harry Brand, studio publicity director. Both jobs are in connection with 20th-Fox's campaign for its anniversary.

While the first objective in the campaign is in April, the entire year will be involved in the company's publicity-advertising campaigns and an anniversary year trailer for exhibitors is now being completed. The campaign will embrace trade papers, daily papers, magazines, fan magazines and radio. Charles Schlaifer, assistant to Horne, states that the advertising forces have prepared the first series of trade paper and other promotionals.

AAA Given 30 Days To Answer Arthur

(Continued from page 1)

their difficulties with the Department of Justice without being forced to go to trial on the whole issue. A hearing set before Judge Goddard on March 5 will determine this issue, and it is believed that the defendant film company attorneys will try to delay filing answers in the St. Louis Amusement Co. action until after the questions on the decree as a whole are worked out with Judge Goddard, who stated last December that he felt that the decree should not be tossed aside, and that he would force the companies and the Government to agree if he had "to bang their heads together."

Harry Long Named To Assist Stearn

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 17.—Col. Harry Long has been named assistant to Bert M. Stearn, head of Co-Operative Theatre Service, here, servicing 80 theatres. Stearn is also president of Film Classics here.

Col. Long was a former Canadian manager for Universal and was associated with Loew's Theatres in the U. S. for 13 years as Eastern and Central district manager. For the past two years he has been district manager for Schine in New York and Ohio.

NLRB Hits NBC, Blue

The National Labor Relations Board, through regional director Charles T. Douds, has issued a complaint against National Broadcasting and the Blue Network, claiming that both refused to bargain collectively with the National Association of Broadcast Engineers and Technicians. A hearing will be held here on Jan. 30.

'Suspect' on Mutual

The quiz show, "Double Or Nothing," originating over Mutual, Friday, will salute Universal's "The Suspect." A special preview of the picture will follow the broadcast.

"A Song to Remember"

(Continued from page 1)

teacher, on the one hand, and Merle Oberon as George Sand, on the other. Cornel Wilde, as the adult Chopin, owes his initial success in Paris to the latter and, succumbing to her romantic spell, quickly enough succumbs to her influence as well. Acting upon her counsel, he abandons his old friend and also his intention of dedicating his talent to the liberation of his native Poland, which he had been forced to flee because of his association with revolutionists. He secludes himself at Majorca and composes his numerous waltzes and nocturnes, ignoring the completion of his more serious "Polonaise."

EVENTUALLY, his childhood sweetheart brings word of the suppression of the Polish rebellion, the imprisonment of his old friends and, too, a packet of soil from his native land, and pleads for his help. His will restored, Chopin begins a concert tour of Europe's capitals to earn money for the Polish cause. His health fails and he dies in Paris among his old friends after completing the tour.

Charles Vidor's direction skillfully blends the plenteous piano compositions with the drama and movement of the screenplay. Chopin's initial debut and later triumph in Paris are as well endowed with the feeling and drama which moves audiences deeply as is any superbly done parlor drama or action film. The music, which plays so prominent a part in the production, is a rare delight, never obtrusive and, in fact, as essential to the story as any principal in the cast. It is regrettable that circumstances do not permit credit being given to Jose Iturbi, whose piano artistry is so important to this distinguished picture, in which he himself never appears. His is the music for Wilde's Chopin.

The performances of Muni and Wilde are outstanding. Miss Oberon's unsympathetic role is effectively enacted. Maurice Tauzin as the adolescent Chopin; Stephen Bekassy as Liszt; George Coulouris as an impresario and Nina Foch as Chopin's childhood sweetheart, all are excellent. Buchman's effective screenplay is matched by his and Louis F. Edelman's production contributions. Technicolor photography endows lavish period sets and costumes with exceptional interest and audience values. Musical supervision and direction and musical recordings are in keeping with this quality production.

Despite its unique character, it would be unjust to describe "A Song to Remember" as an experiment in new fields of film making. There is nothing uncertain about its box office values.

Running time, 113 minutes. "G."* Release date, not set.

SHERWIN KANE

*"G" denotes general classification.

Bayshore Trust Suit Is Discontinued

The triple-damage anti-trust suit of Associated Playhouse, Inc., operators of the Bayshore, Bayshore, L. I., against Loew's, Paramount, United Artists and Universal, was discontinued without prejudice to a renewal in Federal Court here yesterday.

Action claimed that the Bayshore was forced to play 140 days after a Broadway showing of a picture, and that Loew's Valencia in Jamacia, 32 miles away, and the Bayshore's nearest competitor, overbought on product to prevent the plaintiff from securing 'choice' pictures. The discontinuance without prejudice means that legally the action can be started again with no loss to the plaintiff, provided the settlement, which is not indicated in the filed stipulation, is unsatisfactory after a reasonable period.

5 Companies Out In Murray Damage Suit

(Continued from page 1)

on defense counsel's argument that little evidence had been presented by Murray against those defendants. Monogram and Warner were dropped as defendants by mutual agreement. The plea to dismiss the action against the other defendants, mostly distributors, was denied.

During this afternoon the jury was taken to Murrays' former theatre, the Thalia, and to the Balaban and Katz competitive theatre, the Milo, to get a clearer picture of the properties under discussion. The defense will begin its case tomorrow. Murray contends that the distributors gradually deprived him of product for the Thalia over a period of years, favoring the Milo, and finally forced him out of business.

Warners Creates New Sales Area

(Continued from page 1)

fice of the newly designated Southeastern district, with Ralph L. McCoy continuing as district manager in that territory; his sales area will include Atlanta, Charlotte and New Orleans. A newly-created Southwest district has been set up under Doak Roberts, promoted from Dallas branch manager, with headquarters in that city. This district will take in Oklahoma City and Memphis.

J. W. Loewe, manager in Oklahoma City, has been promoted to Dallas manager, with J. B. Sokley, salesman in the Chicago branch, elevated to the Oklahoma City managership.

All changes will become effective on Monday.

Para. Workers Sue For $35,000 Overtime

Fifty building maintenance employees of the Paramount Building, here, filed suit in New York Federal Court yesterday against Paramount, owners of the building, and William A. White and Sons, agents, seeking overtime pay, asking $35,000 in back pay and charging violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act; they seek penalties in a similar sum.

Mrs. Studer to Goldwyn

Mary Curtis Studer has been named assistant director of East Coast publicity, under Leo Katcher, for Samuel Goldwyn Productions. Mrs. Studer, former radio commentator and actress, recently director of radio publicity and special events for the American Red Cross, Eastern area, will have charge of magazine and radio publicity.

Newsreels May Be Spared Further Raw Stock Cut

(Continued from page 1)

Washington conferring with WPB officials, and it is expected that on the basis of the information he has assembled on minimum raw stock requirements of the reels, the WPB will arrive at definite allocations.

There were no indications here yesterday that the overall cut of some 27,000,000 feet of raw stock which the industry has been asked to take during the current quarter, has been altered. Schaefer is understood to have studied current raw stock usage by Government agencies in an effort to see if any more raw stock can be made available to the industry.

900 Prints Weekly

The newsreels were originally asked to cut 9,000,000 feet from their 1944 fourth quarter allocation of 52,000,000 feet. The 43,000,000 feet available would have necessitated cutting the equivalent of 12,000 prints for the quarter. About 68,000 newsreel prints were made during the quarter, or about 5,200 prints each week for the five companies. The suggested WPB cut of 9,000,000 feet would have meant cutting the equivalent of 900 prints weekly, if no cuts were to be made in the actual footage maximum of 750 feet.

Several companies are understood to have pointed out that they sold their reels on a yearly contract of 104 issues and they could not, therefore, cancel customers to curtail prints. Leveling the cut against the length of the reels would have cut the average of 750 feet per issue to 600 feet, and the newsreel companies are understood to have pointed out that it would not be advisable to cut to that length.

Reports current this week that the reels would only be cut by five per cent in raw stock usage are not viewed with too much optimism in informed quarters, where it is pointed out that the actual savings in stock usage would not warrant the widespread revamping of the size of the reels, which the cut in size would entail.

Film company officials appear to be more pessimistic about the cut in newsreel raw stock allocations than they are about feature printing allocations.

'Week' Retains Condon

This Week, Sunday supplement, edited by William Nichols, has retained Richard Condon, Inc., as consultant to the editorial department. Condon reports that his program for *This Week*, distributed in New York through the Sunday *Herald Tribune*, will be to effect closer relations between the magazine and the motion picture industry, as well as radio and the press.

Flanter Joins Fawcett

Adrian James Flanter has joined the public relations department of Fawcett Publications in an executive capacity. Flanter had been in the broadcasting field as promotional counsel for many years. Barbara Van Sleet, formerly with NBC, has also joined the same unit.

Monogram

An Exciting NEW STAR Is Born!

THEY SHALL

MONOGRAM PICTURES

Produced by Jeffrey Bernard Directed by William Nigh Screenpla

BIG One Is Ready!

BIG *in Theme!* **BIG** *in Cast!* *And* **BIG** *in Reviews!*

"Excellent. Its cast is the best ever to appear for Monogram. Story is powerful, direction splendid, production exceptional."—*HOLLYWOOD REPORTER*

"Sure-fire hit."—*LOUELLA PARSONS*

"Poignant, timely, effective."—*LOS ANGELES TIMES*

"Formidable contender for big league bookings and patronage."—*BOXOFFICE*

"Subject has great topical importance. Rates top spot."—*SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIEW*

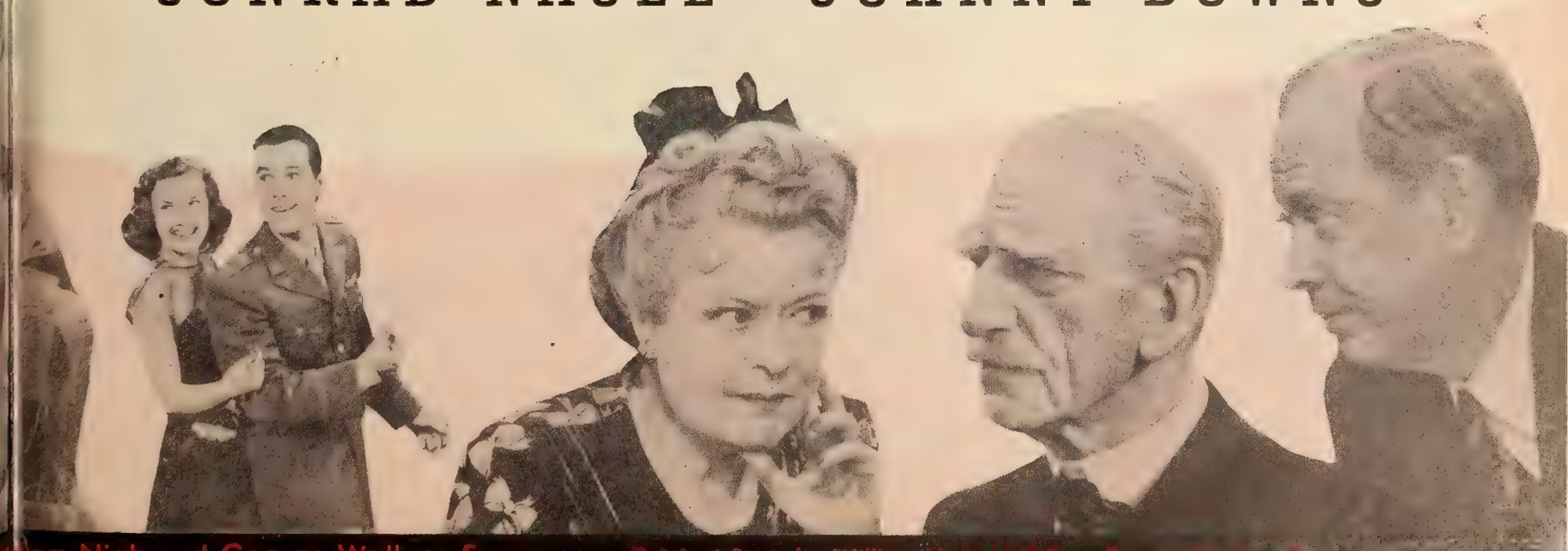
"Deft and interesting. Gale Storm gives top performance."—*MOTION PICTURE HERALD*

HAVE FAITH

starring **GALE STORM**

with

SIR AUBREY SMITH · JOHN MACK BROWN
FRANK CRAVEN · MARY BOLAND
CONRAD NAGEL · JOHNNY DOWNS



am Nigh and George Wallace Sayre Original Story by William

GYPSY ROSE LEO OUTSTRIPS ALL RIVALS!

Join March of Dimes!—Jan. 25 to 31

1924 1945 21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP MGM

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 14 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1945 | TEN CENTS

Allied Board To Review Trust Suits

But Exhibitors' Decree Conference Is Deferred

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—National Allied's board of directors' meeting at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus, Jan. 24-25, will be devoted largely to discussions of anti-trust suits, the consent decree, additional product sources for independent exhibitors, the work of the organization's Caravan Committee, a proposed new plan for serial-numbering theatre tickets, and the annual election of officers, it was announced here today from the office of Abram F. Myers, Allied board chairman and general counsel.

The conference of independent ex-

(Continued on page 8)

Lawrence to Handle Rank Promotions

LONDON, Jan. 18.—J. Arthur Rank today announced the appointment of Col. Jock Lawrence, Hollywood writer and publicist, as his American public relations representative to handle all publicity and exploitation, confirming a MOTION PICTURE DAILY story of Dec. 5.

Lawrence, before entering the

(Continued on page 10)

'IA' Favors Salesmen, Enters Video, 16mm

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 18.—IATSE executive committee members, holding their mid-Winter meeting here this week, indicated today that they are favorably disposed toward the organization of film salesmen under the union's banner. Requests for charters from salesmen's groups are being studied and probably will be granted

(Continued on page 7)

Seventh War Loan In May: Gamble

Portland, Ore., Jan. 18.—The Seventh War Loan drive will probably begin about May, Ted R. Gamble, national director of the Treasury's War Finance Division, predicted here today.

Law Plan to Distributors

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 18.—Hugh Bruen and Robert Poole, executives of the Southern California Theatre Owners Association, will arrive in New York next week to present to distributors the trade grievance conciliation plan of the late Albert J. Law, former executive secretary and general counsel of the SCTOA, who died there Jan. 1. A successor to Law is scheduled to be elected at a board meeting here Monday, and it is probable that the successor will join Bruen and Poole in New York.

The first stop of both executives, who will leave today, will be Colum-

(Continued on page 10)

Million for ITOA Film Production

The Independent Theatre Owners Association, following a meeting here yesterday at the Astor Hotel, announced plans for independent production with $1,000,000 reported to be available to start immediately. No further details were made available. Harry Brandt, president, and other executives of the organization, refused to comment.

The ITOA membership pledged 100 per cent support of the March of Dimes drive, taking collections at every performance. The organization will also back the manpower recruiting campaign by devoting program space, show trailers, permit announcements from the stage, and, if necessary, make arrangements to recruit manpower in the lobby.

Exhibitor Wants a Tax—for Circuits

Butte, Mont., Jan. 18.—State Representative Frank H. Horrigan, himself an exhibitor—independent—has introduced in the legislature a bill which would require theatre circuits in Montana to pay $1,000 annually for a license for each theatre operated by a circuit.

Freeman to Outline Para. Studio Plans

Production plans of the Paramount studio will be outlined by Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of studio operations, at a luncheon at the Hotel Pierre today in conjunction with the company's two-day meeting of theatre and circuit advertising and publicity heads and district advertising representatives.

Barney Balaban, Adolph Zukor, Leonard Goldenson and other Paramount executives will attend the luncheon, in addition to the out-of-town representatives. The meeting

(Continued on page 10)

SAG May Carry Fight To Supreme Court

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 18.—Screen Actors Guild attorney William Berger told the membership, at a meeting here last night, that overlapping jurisdictional claims of SAG and the Screen Players Union are subject to review by the National Labor Relations Board and also by the federal courts in an unfair labor practice case, and

(Continued on page 7)

'Gift-Films Make Millions Of Post-war Customers'

"The industry will have millions of new soldier customers and will have to build many additional theatres to house them in the post-war, as a direct result of its free distribution of films to soldiers," Lt. James O'Shea, son of E. K. O'Shea, Eastern sales manager of M-G-M, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here yesterday. Lt. O'Shea, home after 300 bombing missions over Germany, in a year-and-a-half abroad, is on leave in New York.

Lt. O'Shea, 21, who plans to enter the film industry at the end of the war, made several private surveys of film conditions while overseas, and reports he bases his findings on the fact that thousands of men from farms, the mountains, and other out-of-the-way places who seldom, if ever attended films, now find them their only source of relaxation. At O'Shea's post, he said that four films were shown weekly, with pilots receiving seven, and that a complete 'sell-out' in attendance was always the order. It is difficult to get some soldiers to leave the showing even after having seen the same film twice.

"These soldiers, on their return home will demand motion pictures for entertainment, and if no theatre exists in their area, they will see that one is built," declared Lt. O'Shea. "The goodwill the industry has cre-

(Continued on page 10)

Studio Strike Monday Unless WLB Steps In

Sorrell Says He Cannot Hold Situation in Check

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 18.—A strike by the Screen Set Decorators Union on Monday loomed here today as Conference of Studio Unions president Herbert Sorrell telegraphed War Labor Board chairman William H. Davis asking him to "confirm or deny" the statement of William Green, Amercian Federation of Labor president, that the WLB is appointing an arbitrator in the jurisdictional dispute between the decorators' union and IATSE.

Sorrell's telegram declared, "It is impossible to hold the situation in

(Continued on page 7)

Ontario Exhibitors To Fight 10% Tax

Ontario exhibitors will meet in Toronto next Wednesday to organize against a proposed additional 10 per cent admission tax on all theatres in the province, John J. Fitzgibbons, president and managing director of Famous Players-Canadian, disclosed here yesterday. Fitzgibbons is in New York to discuss final plans with Paramount officials for the company's 25th anniversary dinner in Toronto on Jan. 23. He will return to Toronto today.

Fitzgibbons expressed confidence that the industry conciliation code for Canada which has been more than a

(Continued on page 10)

U. S. Files Cartel Suit Against G.E.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Initiation of a civil suit charging General Electric Co., manufacturer of motion picture television, radio and other electrical equipment, and the International General Electric Co. with maintaining international cartel agreements, the

(Continued on page 10)

Reviewed Today

Review of "Gun Smoke" appears on page 10.

'Dimes' Pledges Are Now Up to 13,373

Some 13,373 theatres have pledged participation in the 1945 March of Dimes drive, through yesterday, including Puerto Rican theatres, whose pledges were cabled by chairman Ned Seckler. For the first time, Puerto Rico, the Canal Zone, Hawaii, and Alaska will make collections. Robert Peratrovich, Jr., is Alaskan chairman.

P. J. Wood, state chairman for Ohio, reports that his state also has enrolled more theatres than in any previous year.

Rosenwald Names 28 to Assist on 'Dimes'

CHARLOTTE, Jan. 18.—W. Frank Phillips, Mecklenburg County chairman of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, has named the Charlotte Variety Club to head the county drive for a quota of $25,750 in the 1945 March of Dimes campaign. Benn H. Rosenwald, chief barker of the tent, has appointed Scott Lett and Lester C. Sipe to serve as co-chairmen for the campaign.

Named from the membership to assist are: Tom Little, H. H. Everett, Roy L. Smart, H. F. Kincey, Bob Allen, Bob Jeffers, Hank Hearn, Bill White, J. V. Frew, Jack Austin, Walter Griffith, A. B. Craver, J. Henry Dillon, George Roscoe, Sam Hinson, Harry Jones, Ernest Stelling, Bob Saunders, Hy Holston, Robert Bradley, Max Bryant, Royal Penny, John Ward, Haskell Porcher, Al Burks and Leonard Allen.

Rubens and Kirsch Call Illinois 'Dimes' Meet

CHICAGO, Jan. 18.—M. M. Rubens and Jack Kirsch, co-chairmen of the March of Dimes drive, have called a statewide meeting and luncheon to be held at the Blackstone Hotel on Monday. Exhibitors participating in the drive and all executives and newspapermen have been invited.

Coval, Palmeri in WB Foreign Posts

Irvin Coval, formerly branch manager for Warners in Montreal, has been made manager in Trinidad and the British West Indies, succeeding Lester Cohen, who was shifted to Panama, and Vincent Palmeri, former manager of Warner theatres in Bridgeport, becomes manager of the Warner branch in Peru, replacing Armando Trucios, who has been promoted to supervisor for Peru, Colombia and Ecuador, Wolfe Cohen, vice-president of Warner Pictures International Corp., disclosed here yesterday.

Both Coval and Palmeri are now enroute to their new posts.

Stuber Head of EK Advertising, Sales

ROCHESTER, Jan. 18.—Adolph Stuber, Eastman Kodak vice-president, has been named director of sales and advertising for the company, by the board of directors. James C. White, vice-president and general manager of Tennessee Eastman, has been named president of that organization.

Personal Mention

NICHOLAS M. SCHENCK, president of Loew's, Inc., and OSCAR A. DOOB, Loew's Theatres advertising-publicity director, will leave Hollywood for New York today on the Superchief, followed Tuesday by HOWARD DIETZ, M-G-M advertising-publicity director.

•

HERMAN LIVERIGHT of the Paramount story department in New York and Paramount SOPEG chairman, has become a father.

•

M. J. MCDERMOTT, Universal auditor, who has been visiting the company's Atlanta branch, has left for Dallas.

•

WILLIAM B. BRENNER, National Screen Service vice-president in charge of operations, is in Minneapolis.

•

SPYROS SKOURAS, president of 20th Century-Fox, has returned to New York from Hollywood.

•

FREDERIC ULLMAN, JR., RKO-Pathe News president, was in Chicago this week.

•

CLAUD MORRIS, East Coast exploitation director for Samuel Goldwyn, is on a trip to the Southwest.

•

HENRY BLANKE, Warner Bros. producer, has arrived in New York.

•

Y. FRANK FREEMAN is scheduled to leave for the Coast today.

HARRY COHN is scheduled to leave for the Coast today.

•

CAPT. GENE MARKEY, chief of the Navy's motion picture section, arrived yesterday in Hollywood for conferences with COMMANDER A. J. BOLTON, Hollywood liaison officer, and with the Hollywood division of the War Activities Committee.

•

PVT. HOWARD HELLEBERG, formerly manager of the Art Theatre, here, is now stationed in England after having been wounded in General Hodges' first invasion of Germany.

•

ED DUPAR, Warner Bros. cameraman, who has been in the East for the past few weeks with a unit shooting exteriors, left yesterday for the Coast.

•

RUSSELL HOLMAN, head of Paramount's Eastern production department, and JOHN BYRAM, play editor, will leave today for Hollywood.

•

EARL CUNNINGHAM, vice-president and general manager of the Fountain Square Theatre Co., Indianapolis, was a recent New York visitor.

•

JACK KIRBY, Paramount Southern division manager, is in New York from Atlanta.

•

HARRY DAVID, general manager of Northio Theatres, is a New York visitor from Cincinnati.

Porter Is Approved By Vote of Senate

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18—Nomination of Paul Porter to be chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, was confirmed today by the Senate. Porter is already serving on the Commission, having been given a recess appointment by President Roosevelt following the adjournment of the last Congress, which failed to act on the nomination.

WB Promotes Batlan To District Manager

Five promotions among Warner theatre executives and managers in the New Jersey zone were announced yesterday by Frank J. Damis, zone manager.

Edward Batlan, Branford Theatre, Newark, has been promoted to district manager, succeeding Robert M. Paskow, who has moved to the home office to handle commercial tieups on films; Louis Stein of the Regent, Elizabeth, takes over the Brandford; Maurice Ingram, former manager of the Sanford, Irvington, succeeds Stein in Elizabeth and is replaced in Irvington by Edward Kane from the Cranford, Cranford; J. Conheim goes to the Cranford.

'Caballeros' Set for Globe

Walt Disney's "The Three Caballeros" will have its New York premiere at the Globe Theatre on Saturday, Feb. 3. RKO Radio is releasing.

Services Tomorrow For Judge Walker

Judge Thomas J. Walker, brother of Postmaster General Frank C. Walker, head of the Comerford Circuit, died in St. Vincent's Hospital here yesterday following an illness of several weeks.

The body will repose at the home of the deceased, 1088 Park Avenue, today. Funeral services will be held at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, 980 Park Avenue, at 11 a.m. tomorrow. Burial will be at Butte, Montana. Judge Walker presided in the Customs and Patent Appeals courts here. He is survived by his wife and two sisters, in addition to the Postmaster General.

Report Masters Is Leaving Odeon Post

It was reported in informed circles here yesterday that J. Arthur Rank would appoint a representative to the Odeon Theatres, Ltd., of Canada board of directors to succeed Haskell M. Masters, Odeon vice-president. Reached in Toronto, Masters said that the report was 'news' to him.

Columbia Joins CAB

Columbia Pictures is one of five advertisers whose new applications for membership in the Cooperative Analysis of Broadcasters has been accepted. Membership involves the receipt of research data being released under CAB's extension program.

NEW YORK THEATRES

SECOND THRILL WEEK!
Erich Von Stroheim — Mary Beth Hughes
The Great Flamarion
with
Dan Duryea — Stephen Barclay
A Republic Picture
REPUBLIC THEATRE
B'way, Bet. 51st & 52nd Sts.
FIRST N. Y. SHOWING!

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50TH STREET & 6TH AVENUE
M-G-M's
"NATIONAL VELVET"
MICKEY ROONEY
DONALD CRISP - ELIZABETH TAYLOR
JACKIE JENKINS - REGINALD OWEN
and THE MUSIC HALL'S
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
'30 SECONDS OVER TOKYO'
SPENCER TRACY
VAN JOHNSON
ROBT. WALKER
IN PERSON
JEAN PARKER
JOEY ADAMS

20TH CENTURY-FOX PRESENTS
A. J. Cronin's
"THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM"
Continuous Performances
RIVOLI
B'way & 49th St.

BING CROSBY
BETTY HUTTON
SONNY TUFTS
In Person
Woody HERMAN and His Orchestra
ALL-STAR REVUE
"Here Come the Waves"
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
HEDY LAMARR
GEORGE BRENT - PAUL LUKAS
"Experiment Perilous"
An RKO Picture

"FIGHTING LADY"
IN TECHNICOLOR
20th CENTURY-FOX RELEASE
VICTORIA THEATRE
BROADWAY & 46th ST.
MIDNIGHT SHOW EVERY NIGHT

MOSS HART'S
WINGED VICTORY
A 20th CENTURY-FOX PICTURE
Produced by DARRYL F. ZANUCK
Directed by GEORGE CUKOR
In Person
NICHOLAS BROTHERS
Extra JACK DURANT
ROXY 7th AVE. & 50th St.

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UNIVERSAL

hits an energetic stride for 1945 with the biggest of all its productions

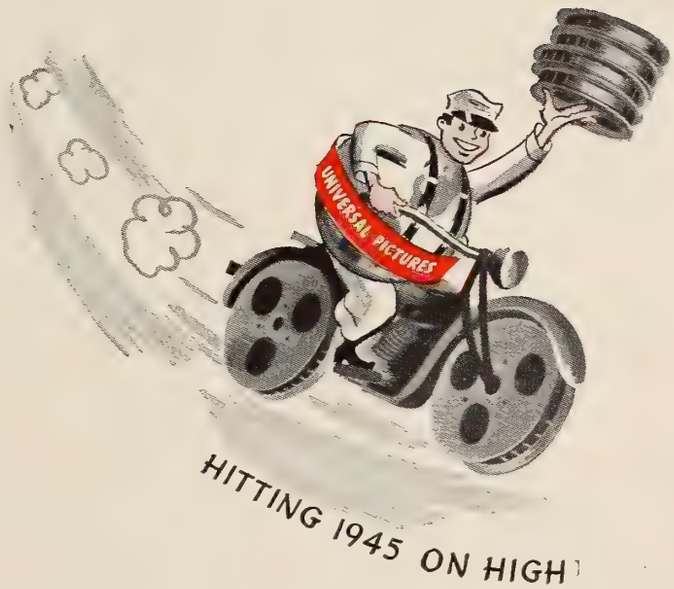
"CAN'T HELP SINGING,"

paralleled by such boxoffice attractions

as "THE SUSPECT,"

"HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN"

and "SHE GETS HER MAN"



all in circulation now . . .

OUR ENTHUSIASM FOR "CAN'T HELP SINGING" IS WELL FOUNDED

We felt that "Can't Help Singing" would be the biggest picture Universal has ever had. We also felt it would prove to be the most entertaining and the most satisfying to exhibitors and customers. All business returns prove this to be correct. "Can't Help Singing" has broken every record of every Universal picture in the engagements it has played so far.

It has also received fine critical acclaim, and we are very happy about the fact that many critics refer to it as the best Deanna Durbin picture ever made.

In the New York Daily Mirror, Frank Quinn referred to "Can't Help Singing" as "Filmdom's 'Oklahoma.'"

No wonder we "Can't Help Singing" the praises of "Can't Help Singing."

Held over in all first engagements!

Deanna DURBIN

CAN'T HELP SINGING

IN TECHNICOLOR

with ROBERT PAIGE
AKIM TAMIROFF

DAVID BRUCE LEONID KINSKEY RAY COLLINS JUNE VINCENT ANDREW TOMBES THOMAS GOMEZ

Directed by FRANK RYAN *Produced by* FELIX JACKSON *Assoc Producer* FRANK SHAW *Music by* JEROME KERN *Lyrics by* E. Y. HARBURG

A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

Screen Play by LEWIS R. FOSTER and FRANK RYAN • Story by John Klorer, Leo Townsend • Based on "Girl of the Overland Trail" by Samuel J. and Curtis B. Warshawsky

UNIVERSAL PICTURES

"LAUGHTON'S BEST PORTRAYAL"
—Daily Variety

"'The SUSPECT' looks like SMASH BOXOFFICE!"
—Variety

"A SUPERB THRILLER"—Motion Picture Daily

"EXCELLENT"—Motion Picture Herald

"THE SUSPECT"
is a motion picture
about a matter
that every husband
and every wife
are keenly
interested in
but never
talk about

Charles LAUGHTON · Ella RAINES

in

The SUSPECT

with

DEAN HARENS · STANLEY C. RIDGES
HENRY DANIELL · ROSALIND IVAN

Screen Play by Bertram Millhauser
From a novel by James Ronald
Produced by ISLIN AUSTER

Adaptation by Arthur T. Horman
Directed by ROBERT SIODMAK
A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

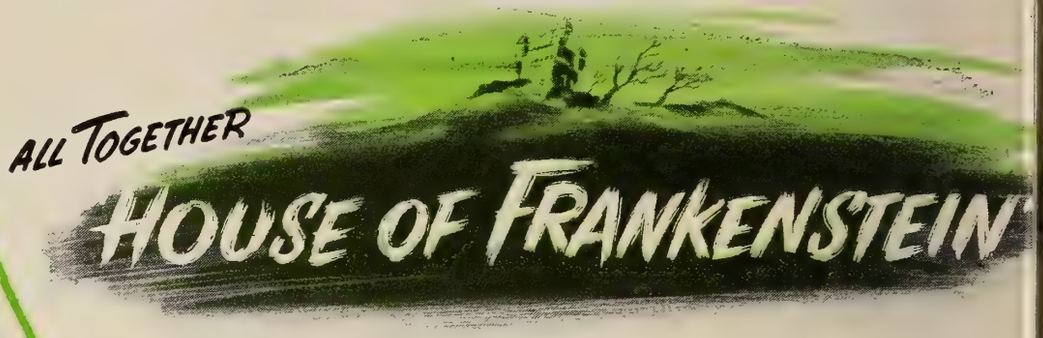
UNIVERSAL PICTURES

BAD BOYS MAKE GOOD!

Cheerful news about these terrible people!...

"House of Frankenstein," Universal's horror classic starring all its Titans of Terror, has broken all existing records at the RIALTO THEATRE on BROADWAY, NEW YORK. This again proves that Universal knows when and how to make this type of boxoffice bonanza.

We really believe that "House of Frankenstein" is headed for an all-time record for horror pictures... So, brother, don't be wary of this scary. You, too, can play it!



starring

BORIS KARLOFF • LON CHANEY with **JOHN CARRADINE • J. CARROL NAISH**

ANNE GWYNNE • PETER COE • ELENA VERDUGO • LIONEL ATWILL

Screen Play by Edward T. Lowe • Directed by ERLE C. KENTON • Produced by PAUL MALVERN • Based on a Story by Curt Siodmak

A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

A BIG LAUGH HIT!

"Joan Davis, voted 'Best Comedienne' in Motion Picture Daily's recent radio poll, proves equally adept on the screen in 'She Gets Her Man,' with a fresh, infectious style that evokes hilarity and merriment." —MOTION PICTURE DAILY

"'She Gets Her Man' offers two immediate claims to widespread acclamation." —HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"Slapstick throughout, it's escapist entertainment first to last, a credit to everyone concerned with its making." —DAILY VARIETY

with

WILLIAM GARGAN
LEON ERROL

Vivian Austin • Milburn Stone • Ian Keith
Russell Hicks *and* Bob Allen

Original Screen Play by Warren Wilson and Clyde Bruckman
Additional Dialogue by Ray Singer and Dick Chevillat
Directed by ERLE C. KENTON
Produced by WARREN WILSON • A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

UNIVERSAL PICTURES

SIGN UP NOW! A GREATER DRIVE IN '45!
MARCH OF DIMES (JAN. 25-31)

PRINTED IN U. S. A.

Fire Epidemic Up At Carolina Meet

CHARLOTTE, Jan. 18.—Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, meeting in annual session here Monday, at the Hotel Charlotte, will take under consideration the number of fires which have been occurring recently in theatres of the two states. Mrs. Pauline Griffith, association secretary, reported that three theatres in North Carolina alone have been destroyed by fire in the past month.

Legislation now before the North Carolina general assembly proposing a return of the three per cent gross receipts tax on theatres will be discussed at the afternoon session. The tax was discontinued in 1943, and under present law theatres pay a license fee on a graduated scale ranging from $125 to $2,500.

The convention will start Sunday night with a meeting of the board of directors. Registration Monday will be followed with an open meeting. Ed Kuykendall, previously slated to speak at this session, will be unable to be here. Kuykendall is head of the MPTOA, with which the local organization is affiliated.

$15,000 for 'Can't Help Singing' Tops

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 18.—"Can't Help Singing" brought an estimated $15,000 to the Harris this week, with bad weather conditions taking a toll of receipts elsewhere.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 15-19:

"The Suspect" (Univ.)
FULTON—(1,700) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $8,500).
"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
J. P. HARRIS—(2,200) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $10,000).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
PENN—(3,400) (40c-55c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $15,000. (Average: $21,700).
"The Master Race" (RKO)
RITZ—(1,100) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days, 2nd week, on a moveover from the Warner. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $3,000).
"Winged Victory" (20th-Fox)
SENATOR—(1,750) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days, 4th week, on a moveover from the Harris. Gross: $4,000. (Average: $3,000).
"Tall in the Saddle" (RKO)
STANLEY—(3,800) (40c-55c-85c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $22,000).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
WARNER—(2,000) (35c-44c-65c) 7 days, 3rd week. Moveover from the Stanley. Gross: $10,000. (Average: $9,450).

RWLB May Change AFM Hiring Policy

Radical modification of the traditional contract policy of the American Federation of Musicians requiring employers to hire fixed numbers of its members regardless of the amount of available work, has been recommended in a formal panel report filed with the Regional War Labor Board, it was disclosed yesterday.

$75,000 to Navy

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Paramount and DeMille Productions today presented a check for $75,000 to the Navy Relief Society, representing another payment from the returns of "The Story of Dr. Wassell." The check was given to Admiral J. O. Richardson, executive vice-president of the Society, who had also received the first check for $50,000, several months ago.

MGM Paid $981,418 For Mutual Time

M-G-M was the fourth largest buyer of time on the Mutual network last year, spending $981,418 for air time on that system alone. It had two shows, "Screen Test" and "People's Reporter," both five evenings a week.

Mutual's billings for 1944 totaled $19,533,650 with Donahue and Coe, advertising agency which handles the M-G-M account, placing $1,056,848 in time, also to rank fourth among agencies placing time.

Yates Will Address Republic Meeting

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 18.—The third and last in Republic's series of regional sales conferences will begin at the company's studio here Monday, where James R. Grainger, president and general sales manager, will meet with Western sales, studio and home office executives.

H. J. Yates, chairman of the board, will make the opening address. Among those in attendance will be: Francis Bateman, Western district sales manager; J. T. Sheffield, franchise holder; J. H. Sheffield, Portland manager; Gene Gerbase, Denver; Harold C. Fuller, Salt Lake City; L. W. Marriott, Los Angeles; Sid Weisbaum, San Francisco; Edward L. Walton, assistant sales manager; Walter L. Titus, executive assistant to Grainger; Steve Edwards, New York publicity director; Si Borus, contract department; William Saal, executive assistant to Yates; Allen Wilson, studio vice-president; J. L. Kaufman, studio publicity head, and other studio executives.

Berman, Gilbert Cited For 'Army' Services

A. L. Berman and Francis Gilbert have been cited in connection with their services as president and secretary, respectively, of the charitable organization "This Is the Army," which has realized about $10,000,000 as a play and film. The awards for "exceptionally meritorious conduct," were signed by Under-Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson and Major General K. Wilson, executive director of Army Emergency Relief.

Berman, theatrical attorney, represented the interests of Irving Berlin, author and producer of "This Is the Army." Gilbert is also an attorney.

SAG May Carry Fight To Supreme Court

(*Continued from page* 1)

such proceedings may be appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Berger's statement, backed by other SAG officials, is interpreted as an indication that the SAG-SPU conflict may flare into possible violence after Feb. 1, when the organizations close their membership books. It will be prolonged indefinitely unless the NLRB or some other agency works out a basis for amicable settlement of the jurisdictional dispute, according to observers here.

Set Blue Television With DuMont, GE

The Blue Network's plans for active participation in television in conjunction with General Electric and DuMont were announced here yesterday by Hubbell Robinson, Jr., vice-president of Blue, in charge of programs and production.

Negotiations are underway with Balaban and Katz to present suitable Blue network programs by television from the studios of WBKB in Chicago.

The television debut of the web will take place Feb. 25 with a half-hour program, "Ladies Be Seated," over WRGB, the GE station in Schenectady. This will be followed by a variety program featuring Blue web stars over WABD, DuMont station in New York, on Feb. 27. Regular weekly half-hour programs on both stations will continue thereafter.

The Blue's television plans, Robinson stressed, are not to limit its experience to any one variation in the use of television nor to any one manufacturer's equipment. The Blue's television directors and engineers will be getting actual experience in studios, on location, and in experimental laboratories of two major manufacturers, he pointed out. "Out of this," he said, "will come a knowledge of equipment and an experience in the use of the medium."

'Singing' Grosses A Heavy $23,000

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 18.—An average or better-than-average report came from theatres here this week. Esquire, Uptown and Fairway, with "Can't Help Singing," totaled around $23,000. Weather was unpleasant all week.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 16-19:

"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
ESQUIRE—(800) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $13,000. (Average: $9,400).
"The Thin Man Goes Home" (M-G-M)
MIDLAND—(3,500) (40c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $14,000).
"And Now Tomorrow" (Para.)
NEWMAN—(1,900) (46c-65c) 3rd week. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $10,000).
"The Very Thought of You" (WB)
"Dead End" (Film Classics) (Reissue)
ORPHEUM—(1,900) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $11,000. (Average: $10,000).
"San Diego, I Love You" (Univ.)
"The Navy Way" (Para.)
TOWER—(2,000) (39c-60c) 7 days. Gross: $9,500. (Average: $9,400).
"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
UPTOWN—(2,000) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $2,000. (Average: $5,600).
FAIRWAY—(700) (45c-65c) 7 days. Gross: $2,500. (Average: $1,600).

Studio Strike Monday Unless WLB Steps In

(*Continued from page* 1)

check much longer," and asked for a reply before Sunday.

A spokesman for the decorators told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that the strike, authorized by the membership in a vote two weeks ago, will be called Monday, according to present plans, unless the WLB gives assurance that action toward a settlement is under way.

Illness Delays Pickford

Mary Pickford, scheduled to start a two-week tour this week for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, is ill at the Waldorf-Astoria, suffering from grippe. She will enter St. Luke's Hospital.

'Frankenstein' And 'Mummy' $10,000 Above

CHICAGO, Jan. 18.—The Loop enjoyed a big week, despite a long snowfall. The best runs are "The House of Frankenstein" and "The Mummy's Curse," at the Grand which, in its second week, topped the first and grossed a record-breaking $20,000, against a house average of $9,100.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 18:

"The Very Thought of You" (WB)
APOLLO—(1,200) (55c-85c-95c) 4th week. Gross: $9,000. (Average: $11,400).
"The Doughgirls" (WB)
CHICAGO—(3,850) (55c-85c-95c). On stage: Kitty Carlisle and Henry Youngman's Revue. Gross: $43,000. (Average: $51,500).
"Music in Manhattan" (RKO)
DOWNTOWN — (1,800) 44c-55c-85c-95c) 2nd Loop run. On stage: Andy Kirk and orchestra. Gross: $15,000.
"Irish Eyes Are Smiling" (20th-Fox) 1 day
"Hail the Conquering Hero" (Para.)
"Dark Mountain" (Para.) 6 days
GARRICK — (1,000) (55c-65c-85c-95c) 7 days. Gross: $14,000. (Average: $9,100).
"The House of Frankenstein" (Univ.)
"The Mummy's Queen" (Univ.)
GRAND—(1,250) (50c-65c-85c-95c) 2nd week. Gross: $20,000. (Average: $9,100).
"Dark Waters" (UA)
ORIENTAL—(3,200) (44c-55c-85c-95c) 2nd week. On stage: Ray Eberle and Chaz Chase Revue. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $24,000).
"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
"Enter Arsene Lupin" (Univ.) 6 days, 3rd week
"Tall in the Saddle" (Univ.)
"The Falcon in Hollywood" (RKO) 1 day
PALACE—(2,500) (55c-65c-95c) 7 days. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $24,000).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
ROOSEVELT—(1,500) (55c-65c-95c) 3rd week. Gross: $23,000. (Average: $20,000).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
STATE LAKE—(2,700) (55c-85c-95c) 4th week. Gross: $21,000. (Average: $29,000).
"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
UNITED ARTISTS—(1,700) (50c-65c-95c) 4th week. Gross: $25,000. (Average: $25,000).
"The Princess and the Pirate" (RKO)
WOODS—(1,200) (55c-65c-95c) 8th week. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $10,000).

'IA' Favors Salesmen, Enters Video, 16mm

(*Continued from page* 1)

before adjournment Saturday, although there is a chance action may be deferred.

President Richard F. Walsh said IATSE will enter the television and 16 mm fields, plans along those lines having been formulated at the sessions here.

However, as far as the IATSE is concerned, there will be no unionization of theatre managers, he declared. Several requests from managers' groups for charters were denied. Walsh said he was emphatically opposed to bringing house managers into the fold and that the majority of the committee sides with him. This matter is being settled once and for all here, it was indicated.

Sessions thus far have been devoted mainly to the hearing of appeals from locals on decisions previously handed down in inter-union disputes.

"Sleuth" in Washington

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Representatives of the War Department's Safety Council, and safety heads of Government departments here, will attend a special showing of M-G-M's short, "Safety Sleuth," tomorrow. A Pete Smith 'Specialty,' the short deals with measures to reduce accidents.

'Creek', 'Keys' Are Very Big In Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 18.—"Frenchman's Creek" and "Keys of the Kingdom," only two new offerings in a week of holdovers, did substantial business, with the former slightly ahead; it took $53,000 at the two Paramounts, where $31,400 is average. "Keys" got $73,500 at the Chinese-Loew's State-Uptown trio, where the average is $54,700.

Estimated receipts for the week ended Jan. 17:

"Keys of the Kingdom" (20th-Fox)
CHINESE—(2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $14,900).
"Meet Me in St. Louis" (M-G-M)
EGYPTIAN—(1,000) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $18,500. (Average: $15,000).
"I'll Be Seeing You" (U-A Selznick)
FOUR STAR—(900) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $7,000. (Average: $3,250).
"I'll Be Seeing You" (UA-Selznick)
FOX-WILSHIRE—(2,300) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $8,000. (Average: $10,500).
"The House of Frankenstein" (Univ.)
"The Mummy's Curse" (Univ.)
HAWAII—(1,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $5,000. (Average: $5,700).
"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
"Enter Arsene Lupin" (Univ.)
HILLSTREET — (2,700) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $17,000. (Average: $18,500).
"Keys of the Kingdom" (20th-Fox)
LOEW'S STATE—(2,500) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $35,000. (Average: $29,300).
"Meet Me in St. Louis" (M-G-M)
LOS ANGELES — (2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $25,000).
"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
"Enter Arsene Lupin" (Univ.)
PANTAGES—(2,096) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $15,300).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT HOLLYWOOD — (1,407) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $11,900).
"Frenchman's Creek" (Para.)
PARAMOUNT DOWNTOWN — (3,595) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $35,000. (Average: $19,500).
"Meet Me in St. Louis" (M-G-M)
RITZ—(1,376) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $15,300. (Average: $12,500).
"I'll Be Seeing You" (UA-Selznick)
UNITED ARTISTS—(2,100) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $16,600. (Average: $20,300).
"Keys of the Kingdom" (20th-Fox)
UPTOWN—(1,716) (50c-60c-85c-$1.00) 7 days. Gross: $16,500. (Average: $10,500).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
WARNER HOLLYWOOD—(3,000) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $13,362. (Average: $16,700).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
WARNER DOWNTOWN—(3,400) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00). 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $17,235. (Average: $18,700).
"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
WARNER WILTERN—(2,200) (50c-60c-80c-$1.00) 7 days, 4th week. Gross: $12,226. (Average: $15,800).

Pix Circuit Has Six, Plans Two More

Pix Theatre Co. now has six houses with the opening of the High Theatre in Portsmouth, Va. Samuel Cummins is general manager. Plans are under way for the completion, in 1945, of two more theatres, one in Philadelphia and one in Long Beach, L. I.

Schoof Succeeds Field

CHICAGO, Jan. 18.—Charles M. Schoof has been named motion picture editor of *Downtown Shopping News*, here, succeeding David Field.

Allied Board Will Review Decree Anti-Trust Suits

(*Continued from page* 1)

nibitors on the decree, originally scheduled to be held at the same time, has been postponed until Allied's Spring board meeting, in late April or early May, the statement added, holding that there has been "no major development in connection with the decree." This conference will be at the call of Hugh W. Bruen, moderator.

Allied's forthcoming board meeting will be preceded on Jan. 23 by a dinner, with the directors of the Independent Theatre Owners Association of Ohio as hosts.

The morning session on Jan. 24, following opening remarks by Allied president Martin G. Smith, will be devoted to Myers' annual report. He will lead the decree discussion at this time, and Allied will formulate a policy pending the decree hearing in New York Federal District Court on Mar. 5.

Reports listed for the afternoon session on the 24th include: Col. H. A. Cole on the action taken by his committee on the serial-numbering of tickets; Nathan Yamins on the work of the Allied committee studying 16mm competition; Irving Dollinger on sources of new product; Sidney E. Samuelson on the Caravan, and Smith and H. H. Lowenstein on recent War Activities Committee meetings in New York. There will also be a general discussion of film rentals and distributor practices.

A closed session limited to directors and national officers will be the first order of business on Jan. 25, followed by an open session which will consider tax conditions in Washington and in Allied's territories, plus the work of the industry's advisory committee to the War Production Board. Col. Cole will lead a discussion of WPB's attitude regarding new theatres. Also reporting at this time will be William L. Ainsworth, treasurer, and M. A. Rosenberg, chairman of the nominating committee.

Officers, whose one-year terms will expire, include, in addition to Smith, Myers and Ainsworth: secretary, Roy E. Harold; recording secretary, P. J. Wood, and executive committeemen Smith, Cole, Samuelson, M. A. Rosenberg and Jack Kirsch. The Caravan Committee includes Samuelson, Cole, Rosenberg, Ainsworth and Robert H. Poole, the latter representing the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners.

Murray Trust Case To Jury Next Week

CHICAGO, Jan. 18.—The Thomas A. Murray $1,000,000 conspiracy case against a number of distributors in Federal Court here will go to the jury before the end of next week, Myles G. Seeley, defense counsel, said today.

A parade of defense witnesses testified today, among them Felix Mendelssohn, former M-G-M branch manager, now retired; Sam Gorelick, RKO branch manager; Clyde Ekhardt, 20th Century-Fox branch manager in Los Angeles and former manager here, and Ben Isenberg, sales manager for Monogram here. All recounted selling experiences with plaintiff Murray, former operator of the Thalia Theatre, and the competitive Milo theatres in the 1940's.

Cowan to Set Plans On Return Here

Lester Cowan, independent producer releasing through United Artists, will return to Hollywood today, after conferring here this week with UA executives. He will return here in several weeks, and will then announce his production plans for 1945.

Currently in release now is Cowan's "Tomorrow the World," to be followed by "GI Joe," which has been finished.

IRE to Hear DeWolf

Francis Colt deWolf, chief of the telecommunications division of the Department of State, will speak at the Institute of Radio Engineers dinner to be held at the Hotel Commodore here Jan. 25 in conjunction with the IRE Winter technical meeting. E. L. Bragdon, chairman of the publicity committee for the IRE meet which will be held Jan. 24-27, outlined provisions which have been made for the press at a luncheon at the Hotel Warwick here yesterday.

'Canteen', 'Woman' Are Buffalo's Tops

BUFFALO, Jan. 18. — "Hollywood Canteen" was strong at the Buffalo and probably will hit $22,000 to be way out in front here. "The Woman in the Window" and "My Pal, Wolf" were hits at the Twentieth Century, good for $18,000.

Estimated receipts for the week ending Jan. 20:

"Hollywood Canteen" (WB)
BUFFALO—(3,489) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $22,000. (Average: $17,400).
"Mrs. Parkington" (M-G-M)
GREAT LAKES—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 2nd week. Gross: $16,000. (Average: $16,200).
"30 Seconds Over Tokyo" (M-G-M)
HIPPODROME—(2,100) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days, 3rd week, on a moveover. Gross: $9,100. (Average: $9,700).
"Can't Help Singing" (Univ.)
"Murder in the Blue Room" (Univ.)
LAFAYETTE—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70) 7 days, 3rd week. Gross: $8,300. (Average: $12,400).
"The Woman in the Window" (RKO)
"My Pal, Wolf" (RKO)
TWENTIETH CENTURY—(3,000) (40c-50c-60c-70c) 7 days. Gross: $18,000. (Average: $12,200).

Markham Named GE Television Head

SCHENECTADY, Jan. 18.—Emerson Markham, associated with General Electric broadcasting for 20 years, has been appointed manager of television, it was announced here by Robert S. Peare, vice-president in charge of advertising, broadcasting and publicity.

Markham fills the vacancy created when Robert L. Gibson, former assistant to Peare, was named advertising sales promotion manager for the new GE chemical department.

Sterling M-G-M Manager

ATLANTA, Jan. 18.—Arthur Sterling has been appointed M-G-M branch manager here. Appointment was made by Alan F. Cummings, in charge of exchange operations.

Appeal from Dallas Decision Is Denied

Action of the Dallas arbitration tribunal in dismissing a combined some-run, clearance complaint against the five consenting companies, as filed by W. V. Adwell, operating the Roxy Theatre, San Angelo, Tex., has been upheld by the New York Appeal Board, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

Complainant charged that the distributors ignored a previous order brought against them, with the exception of RKO, in which the companies were directed to offer their films to the Roxy on a run to be designated by them and upon terms fixed by them and not calculate to defeat the purpose of Section 6 of the decree. He also charged that pictures were offered to him 120 to 150 days after first-run and asked that a reasonable maximum clearance be set. Concho Theatres, Inc., operating the Texas, Ritz, Plaza, Angelus, Lyric, Royal and Rex, all San Angelo, Tex., intervened.

Nine of M-G-M Field Personnel Are Due

Nine more of M-G-M's field staff will arrive Monday for a week at the home office. Two are district managers: Charles E. Kessnich, Atlanta, and Rudy Berger, Washington; three are exploiteers: Ted Galanter, Portland-Seattle; Howard Herty, Los Angeles; W. Newbery, San Francisco; three are office managers: Mrs. E. Mitchell, Memphis; Mrs. Blanche Carr, Charlotte; Mrs. Amy Sinclair, Kansas City. Mrs. Adeline Kerr, assistant office manager in Chicago, will come in place of Edna Frank, manager, who attended the annual field auditors' meeting here recently.

Leaving New York for their headquarters at the weekend will be exploiteers Emery Austin, Atlanta; Todd Ferguson, Memphis; Mark Jenkins of the M-G-M Showbuilder traveling unit, as well as office managers Helmer P. Mosley, New Orleans; R. W. Royalty, Oklahoma City; G. A. Derrick, Salt Lake City; G. E. Weber, New Haven.

Rice Named to New Intermountain Post

DENVER, Jan. 18.—Harold E. Rice has been named Southern district manager for Fox Intermountain, succeeding Chet E. Miller, who has been appointed city manager at Sterling, Colo., it was reported here by Frank H. Ricketson, Jr., F-I president. Rice was manager of Paramount's Fox here for six years.

Other changes in Fox Intermountain's set-up include the appointment of Ralph J. Batschelet to the managership of the Paramount and the naming of Robert L. Etter to a similar post at the Webber. Etter succeeds A. C. Knowles.

Variety Honors Collier

BALTIMORE, Jan. 18.—Rodney Collier, retiring chief barker of local Variety, was presented with a watch by members at the recent installation of Frank Durkee, new chief barker. During Collier's term Variety sponsored a boys' club, outfitted Clyburne Home for children and contributed to numerous local charities.

M*G*M shorts keep rolling along!

A CRIME DOES NOT PAY SUBJECT (2 reels)
DARK SHADOWS
Psychiatry probes the mind for murder!

A PETE SMITH SPECIALTY
SAFETY SLEUTH
Accidents are funny—when they happen to Joe Beetlebrain

AN M-G-M CARTOON (In Technicolor)
MOUSE TROUBLE
Tom and Jerry in their scrappiest fun

JOHN NESBITT'S PASSING PARADE
A LADY FIGHTS BACK
Saga of the great French ship Normandie!

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALK (In Technicolor)
WANDERING HERE AND THERE
The acknowledged leader in travel—first class!

and very merrily too!

AS BOSLEY CROWTHER SAID IN THE N. Y. TIMES

"A lot of meat and solid substance is in short-length films and a diet habit is being formed."

On any movie menu you'll find the most nourishing of them are M-G-M. Here are some current and choice selections. It's truer than ever: "M-G-M—the Long and the Short of it."

1924 1945
21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP
MGM

Millions of Postwar Soldier Customers

(Continued from page 1)

ated cannot be measured in dollars and cents now, but should result in an additional 5,000,000 weekly admissions," he said.

The Lieutenant said that from a morale viewpoint, films are even more important than food. He had seen but one 'live' show of the USO since he was overseas, but both he and his men looked forward to the films they were to see, even when engaged in combat.

The men prefer musical comedy, or 'corny' pictures, he said, and liked war pictures only because they could find flaws in them. They all enjoyed 'hooting' a hero crawling through mud with a clean face.

Want More Newsreels

He said that the one request the men had, was for more American newsreels, since the only ones they now receive in his sector are British, and these hardly indicate America's participation in the war. Mostly the films are 16mm with a few in 35mm; 35mm projectors are still hard to get. In France, only 16mm films are shown. The best and most recent pictures are exhibited, and the soldiers are well satisfied with the quality. Lt. O'Shea will leave for Miami when his leave expires.

Freeman to Outline Para. Studio Plans

(Continued from page 1)

was called primarily to discuss the advertising approach and exploitation for the popular priced engagements of "For Whom the Bell Tolls."

Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution, who had originally planned to leave for the Hollywood studios yesterday, will remain to attend the first day's sessions, and will leave for the Coast tonight.

R. M. Gillham, advertising and publicity director, will open the meeting, following which Alec Moss, exploitation manager, will preside.

In addition to the theatre and circuit representatives previously announced to attend, the following will be present: Harry Goldberg, Warner Theatres' advertising and publicity director; Ernest Emerling, Loew's Theatres; William Kernan, Jr., and Blanche Livingston, RKO Theatres; Leroy Furman, Monarch Theatres; Eugene Street, city manager in Knoxville, Tenn., for Wilby-Kincey Theatres; Win Barron, Paramount sales promotion manager in Canada, and William Pine of the Pine-Thomas production unit.

Mass. to Investigate Sale of Hope Tickets

BOSTON, Jan. 18.—The Massachusetts legislature today voted a probe of the ticket sale on the Bob Hope show at the Boston Garden here on Jan. 24. State Senator George W. Stanton has introduced an order in the Senate to investigate sale of tickets for the show, which is being sponsored by the Boston *Record* and Boston *American* for the benefit of disabled veterans.

Tickets were presumably completely sold out within several minutes after the sale opened, and Senator Stanton charged that 'scalpers' and 'racketeers' got them all.

Review

"Gun Smoke"

(Monogram)

Hollywood, Jan. 18

ABOVE par for the Johnny Mack Brown-Raymond Hatton series of Westerns, this one, which Charles Bigelow supervised, takes the boys from an opening which involves three murders, to a climax which sees the villains put out of action for the length of a prison term.

Nevada and Sandy, vacationing in the wilds, come upon an overturned stagecoach with the driver, his helper and a passenger lying dead around it. Upon investigation, the boys discover that the passenger was a noted archaeologist who had recently come upon treasure trove in the form of gold Indian relics. The gang who murdered him, however, have been unsuccessful in locating the treasure, and how the cowboys beat them to it occupies the remainder of the running time. The ending sees the gang in jail, the archaeologist's son saved from the fate which befell his father, and the treasure on its way to an Eastern museum.

Howard Bretherton directed, in his usual fast-action fashion, a cast also composed of Jennifer Holt, Riley Hill, Wen Wright, Ray Bennett, Steve Clark and other competent players.

Running time, 57 minutes. "G."* Release date, Feb. 16. THALIA BELL

"G" denotes general classification.

SCTOA Executives East on Law Plan

(Continued from page 1)

bus, O., to attend Allied's board meeting, and from there they will proceed to New York. Should the conferences be successful, for distributor agreement to adopt the plan, they will then see Wendell Berge, Assistant U. S. Attorney General, in charge of the industry consent decree, in Washington, on the next procedure.

Law's plan, which had reportedly received favorable comment from the Department of Justice, is a three-point formula, already adopted by the SCTOA. It attempts to settle exhibitor-distributor disputes without resorting to, or supplanting, arbitration board procedure.

It is expected that if the companies are favorably disposed, the plan can be incorporated in the consent decree, and aid in the simplification of the present arbitration system, without in any way disturbing that system.

May Cancel Phila. Charity Exemptions

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 18.—An ordinance to amend city amusement tax legislation has been introduced in the City Council here, which would cancel amusement tax exemptions held by charitable, religious and educational organizations, symphony orchestras, veterans' groups and similar organizations; it would augument the city treasury by $1,500,000.

If the ordinance is adopted the various groups will be subject to a four per cent tax, one cent on every 25. The amendment also provides for fines up to $100 for failure to pay the tax. Responsibility for collection will be placed on producers of entertainment.

A clause to raise the cost of amusement licenses from one dollar to $10 is also included.

Rinzler Examined Today

Samuel Rinzler will be examined before trial today in the office of Emil K. Ellis, attorney for the Leader Theatre Corp., which is suing 20th Century-Fox and the Randforce Circuit, Inc., in the New York Supreme Court, claiming unauthorized and illegal transfer of a franchise.

Ontario Exhibitors To Fight 10% Tax

(Continued from page 1)

year in the making, will eventually be worked out. Trade practices which would be regulated within the industry under the new code include runs and availability of product, according to present discussions, Fitzgibbons said. Also being discussed in connection with the code is representation on the six regional boards to be established in the Dominion to deal with trade disputes.

A dinner of the '25-Year Famous Players-Canadian Club' will be held in Vancouver on Jan. 31 in connection with the 25th anniversary, Fitzgibbons said.

Weshner to Aid Mono. On Film Promotions

Monogram has retained David E. (Skip) Weshner and Associates, here, as consultants in connection with special advertising, exploitation and publicity on "They Shall Have Faith" and "John Dillinger."

Weshner will work with Louis Lifton, Monogram's advertising-publicity head, in Hollywood, and with Madeleine White, the company's Eastern publicity representative, in New York. Major campaigns, according to Monogram, are being lined up on the two films.

Lawrence to Handle Rank Promotions

(Continued from page 1)

Armed Forces, was assistant to the president, in charge of public relations, of the Association of Motion Picture Producers, in Hollywood. He was a newspaper reporter and magazine writer before entering the publicity departments of RKO and Paramount. He became associated with Samuel Goldwyn in 1934 as publicity director, becoming production executive to Goldwyn subsequently. In 1940 he joined the AMPP.

Altec Signs Buffalo

Altec has signed Buffalo Theatres, Inc., to service that circuit's 12 houses in the Buffalo area.

U. S. Files Cartel Suit Against G. E.

(Continued from page 1)

other parties to which were German, French, British, Belgian, Italian and Japanese corporations, was announced today by Attorney General Francis Biddle.

The suit, filed in the U. S. District Court in Newark, N. J., charges the arrangement is still in effect despite the war and that, under it, an allocation of world markets was made for the manufacture and sale of all types of electrical equipment except lamps and radio apparatus. The effect of the agreement, the Department contends, is to close the doors of the United States markets to imported electrical equipment, a restraint of trade which has served to keep prices for equipment at levels above those which might prevail under free competitive conditions.

Covers Equipment Field

A spokesman for the Department explained that the suit covers the whole field of electrical equipment, household, industrial and commercial, other than lamps and radio. The lamp situation, he said, was taken care of in a previous suit, and an investigation of the radio situation is on the Department's books, but has been held in abeyance because of the war.

The case was prepared under the direction of Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, chief of the anti-trust division, who declared today it is one of a series "to eliminate the effect of cartels on the American economy."

O'Donnell Head of Lunch Delegation

DALLAS, Jan. 18.—Headed by Robert J. O'Donnell of Interstate Theatres, a delegation of Texas showmen welcomed drive captain Robert Folliard, lieutenant Harry Gittleson and the RKO Radio '1945 Ned Depinet drive' at a luncheon here today, at the Variety Club.

Also on hand were: R. I. Payne and Ray Higdon, R. E. Griffith Theatres; Ed Rowley and C. V. Jones, Robb and Rowley; Julius Gordon, Clifford Porter and S. L. Oakley, Jefferson Amusement Co.; John Rosenfield, *Morning News;* RKO Southwestern district manager Ben Cammack, and RKO branch managers S. M. Sachs, A. M. Avery, and R. B. Williams of the Dallas, Memphis and Oklahoma City branches, respectively, and their sales staffs and bookers.

Following the luncheon, Folliard and Gittleson conferred with Cammack, Sachs, Avery, Williams, salesmen and bookers at the Dallas exchange on the drive.

Film Stars at Inaugural

Orson Welles and Edward G. Robinson will attend President Roosevelt's fourth-term inaugural in Washington tomorrow. Welles arrived in New York yesterday from Hollywood.

Rockefeller 'Outstanding'

CHICAGO, Jan. 18.—The U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce has named assistant Secretary of State Nelson Rockefeller as the "nation's outstanding young man of 1944."

"WHAT'S YOUR NAME?"

THAT'S THE TITLE OF A THRILLING PICTURE TO RUN WHILE BRAVE BOYS HOLD THE LINE ON THE WESTERN FRONT

"I might have saved lives by staying on my job!"

ARE 9 MINUTES OF YOUR SCREEN-TIME WORTH ONE LIFE?

The most thrilling, timely film of the day—"WHAT'S YOUR NAME?" It will hold your audience spellbound and simultaneously inspire them to be faithful to the boys dying on the Western Front. That's what's in *your* power to do! "WHAT'S YOUR NAME?" is absorbing to watch—and you'll be doing your nation a service in the war's critical phase by faithfully showing it.

AVAILABLE GRATIS AT ALL 20th CENTURY-FOX EXCHANGES
Presented by the War Dept. Produced by Army Pictorial Service, Signal Corps.

★ ★ ★ *Sponsored by War Activities Committee of Motion Picture Industry, 1501 Broadway, N. Y. C.* ★ ★ ★

"THE FIGHTING LADY IN TECHNICOLOR FROM 20th CENTURY-FOX BROKE ALL EXISTING OPENING DAY RECORDS

VICTORIA, NEW YORK CITY

ARE YOU SET? STILL TIME TO JOIN! MARCH OF DIMES WEEK, JAN. 25-31!

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

VOL. 57. NO. 15 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1945 | TEN CENTS

SMPE Claims Theatre Video Aided by FCC

Say Needed Experimental Facilities Are Provided

Despite early beliefs that the industry had been sidetracked on theatre television by the new Federal Communications Commission frequency allocations, Donald E. Hyndman, president of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, said at the weekend that the allocations actually give the industry almost everything it had sought.

SMPE applied for experimental television channels to make possible the direct pickup of programs from film studios and elsewhere, for transmitting programs to theatres within a city, and to relay programs from city to city.

Hyndman said that he, as SMPE president; Paul J. Larsen, SMPE

(*Continued on page* 11)

Freeman Says Para. Studio at New Peak

The Paramount studio is "in better shape than it has been in a long time," Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of studio operations, told a meeting of Paramount district advertising representatives, circuit and home office executives at the Hotel Pierre here at the weekend.

Freeman pointed out that the company's production setup has been strengthened by the Hal B. Wallis and B. G. De Sylva independent units and by the appointment of Henry Ginsberg to head up the production of Paramount's own program.

"I want all of you to know that the

(*Continued on page* 14)

Relieve Cameramen In Newsreel Pool

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—General realignment of the personnel of the five U. S. newsreels in combat zones, comprising the American newsreel war-pool, has been completed with the assignment of seven Free French prewar newsreel veterans to those zones in Europe, it was announced at the

(*Continued on page* 14)

Canadian Province Demands Exchanges

Regina, Sask., Jan. 21.—The provincial government of Saskatchewan is reported planning the unusual demand that film exchanges be established here for this province. Exhibitors here are now served from Winnipeg and Calgary. Both they and the distributors oppose the plan, claiming it would boost distribution and rental costs and that Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, which also have no exchanges, would follow by demanding them.

Republic Sets Up International Corp.

Republic Pictures International Corp. has been formed to handle the company's foreign business with a capital stock of 1,000 shares, no par value. Officers are: Morris Goodman, president; E. H. Seifert, vice-president; Walter Titus, treasurer, and A. E. Schiller, secretary.

Republic is the latest company to form a foreign corporate subsidiary for purposes of following a plan first adopted by Loew's. A tax saving is permitted as the result of two features of the U. S. excess profits tax law, from which companies doing 95 per cent of their business abroad are exempt and which, making a 40 per cent annual levy on profits from direct operating, applies this rate to only 15 per cent of the dividends paid by corporate subsidiaries to parent companies.

Films Are Greatest Morale Factor In Winning War: Army

"The motion picture has not only been the greatest single morale builder of American troops, but has ranked with equal importance with guns, planes and ships in winning the war," Major John V. Hubbell, second in command of the Overseas Motion Picture Service, who has just returned from a tour of the European theatre, stated Friday at an Army press conference here.

"We have 2,400 shows a night with an average attendance of 700,000," the Major stated. "And we have gone so far as to pull men out of front lines at night to let them see films. It is not just recreation, but more necessary even than food or sleep, and our psychiatrists have prescribed it as a necessary battle measure."

"Films have become an integral part of soldiers' lives: thousands who had

(*Continued on page* 14)

Set Two More RWLB Service Help Pleas

Film company exchange operational supervisors and representatives of the IATSE have set applications for filing with Regional War Labor Boards having jurisdiction over the Philadelphia and Milwaukee exchanges, for permission to grant 10 per cent wage increases to exchange service employes in those two cities.

Approvals of the increases have already been secured for 17 of the 31 exchange cities.

Raw Stock Cuts Delaying Monogram Releases: Broidy

Monogram, which normally has a backlog of five films, has, principally because of the raw stock shortage, the largest backlog in its history, numbering 13 films, Steve Broidy, vice-president and general manager, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here at the weekend. Broidy is here from Hollywood in conjunction with campaigns on "They Shall Have Faith" and "Dillinger," both scheduled to open at the Broadway Victoria.

Despite Monogram's policy of keeping itself as 'liquid' as possible, the "release of pictures will continue to depend entirely on what stock is available," Broidy said.

Twenty films have been completed or are in production, out of 33 which Monogram is committed to deliver in 1944-45, he added.

"Sales are running better than 50 per cent ahead this year compared to last year," Broidy observed.

He declared that, "if no greater amount of stock is available than appears apparent at the moment, the industry will have to make fewer pictures and concentrate on bigger ones."

Production costs have risen 30 per cent in the last year, Broidy said.

"Monogram is definitely not interested in acquiring any theatres," Broidy said. Money that was realized on the recent stock issue will be used in the reduction of current indebtedness and the balance earmarked for production.

Over 1,000 in Theatre Bands May Be Curbed

WLB May Rule on AFM 'Stand-By' Policies

More than 1,000 musicians employed as "stand-by" orchestras in combination film-stage show houses during engagements of "name" bands would be dropped under a Regional War Labor Board examiner's report handed down late last week in a dispute between the American Federation of Musicians and radio station WOV, New York.

The report, which contains a strong condemnation of the so-called AFM "feather-bedding" practices and consequent waste of manpower, particularly in wartime, must, however, be upheld by the regional board and perhaps the national board before it becomes an official WLB order.

Jurisdiction over the employment of AFM members in film theatres having stage show policies is left to individual locals, according to an AFM

(*Continued on page* 11)

Cartoonists Denied 20% on Reissues

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 21.—The Screen Cartoonists Guild's demand for 20 per cent of the gross on all reissues of cartoon pictures, also on the use of such films for television, was turned down at the weekend by the National War Labor Board in a directive settling a dispute between SCG and Walt Disney Prod.

The Guild's demand has been closely studied by all branches of production as likely to establish a precedent with unlimited ramifications if granted. Disney's opposition to the demand was based on his contention

(*Continued on page* 11)

Rank's Two Cities to Make Five: Sistrom

J. Arthur Rank's Two Cities Films will produce five pictures in England this year; it has five others finished and ready for United Artists release, according to William Sistrom, Two Cities production executive who produced "Mr. Emmanuel," first Rank film to be released by UA. He has

(*Continued on page* 14)

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By and large, it may be said that the industry and the Army Pictorial Service do all within their power to get films, good ones and new ones, to service men wherever they may be. The films are selected by A.P.S. with a view to service men's preferences, and they are made available by the industry to A.P.S. as promptly as possible; in a great many instances, months before release of the films in this country. Proof of this is that letters such as the above are rarities; whereas praise of films and the film job being done for servicemen come uninterruptedly from every action area and the military way-stations between.

Carolina Exhibitors 33 Years A-Meeting

Charlotte, Jan. 21.—When George Parr, president, pounds the gavel, tomorrow morning, in the Hotel Charlotte, for the opening of the annual meeting of Theatre Owners, Inc., of North and South Carolina, he will signal that organization's 33rd consecutive annual convention.

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Samuel Rinzler of the Randforce Circuit, and Fred Schwartz of the Century Circuit, will be bureau chairmen of the motion picture division of the Red Cross 1945 War Fund of New York, which will open March 1. James Sauter will serve in a similar capacity for radio.

Mrs. N. Peter Rathvon, wife of the RKO president, will serve as vice-chairman for the second year.

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MOSS HART'S

WINGED VICTORY

Produced by DARRYL F. ZANUCK

Directed by GEORGE CUKOR

Its box-office power speaks for itself in smash business coast to coast!

A. J. CRONIN'S

THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

Produced by JOSEPH L. MANKIEWICZ

Directed by JOHN M. STAHL

One of the greatest pictures of all time— one of the greatest grossers of all time!

BETTY SMITH'S
A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN

HANGOVER SQUARE

MARY O'HARA'S
THUNDERHEAD
Son of Flicka
in Technicolor

ERNST LUBITSCH'S
A ROYAL SCANDAL

NOB HILL
in Technicolor

KEEP CELEBRATING

WITH HIT AFTER HIT FROM

20th CENTURY-FOX

PLEASE, MISTER,
DO YOUR BEST!
MARCH OF DIMES!

Over 1,000 in AFM Bands Face Curbs

(Continued from page 1)

spokesman. New York theatres which would be affected include the Paramount, Capitol, Strand and Loew's State. These theatres use "name" bands as part of their stage show policies and must pay for "stand-by" musicians when the bands they book are not members of New York AFM Local 802. Usually the theatres must pay AFM New York scale wages for the same number of musicians as are in the non-Local 802 band even if the Local 802 designated musicians do not work. The Roxy and the Radio City Music Hall pit orchestras are regular Local 802 members and they work practically all the time. New York's legitimate theatres are forced to use "stand-by" orchestras on a wider scale, it is said.

Outside New York, film theatres having stage show policies are obliged to make wider use of "stand-by" orchestras when using "name" bands since the bands do not hold AFM memberships in the local having jurisdiction in the particular city. The theatre's regular orchestra merely performs a few minutes daily.

Theatres would save thousands of dollars yearly in their operations if the WLB were to make an official order of the New York examiner's report, and the effect on radio stations throughout the country would be widespread, it is said. AFM wage scales range from approximately $42 weekly per man in Utica to over $85 weekly in New York City.

Commerce Chamber Attacks Clearance

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Ia., Jan. 21.—Floyd Willette, Chamber of Commerce secretary, told C. of C. directors here that an "arbitrary rule" that Class A pictures may not be shown in Council Bluffs until 28 days after Omaha, is a "violation of the Sherman anti-trust Act."

Willette, who said he was speaking for R. D. Goldberg, who owns the Broadway Theatre here, received the 'green light' from chamber directors to sound out other exhibitors, and if they agree, to protest to the distributors.

Report Progress in SOPEG Pact Dispute

Conciliation efforts in the wage, job classification and contract dispute between Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local 109, CIO, and Loew's, 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, RKO Radio and Columbia, involving almost 2,000 of their home office 'white collar' workers, are proceeding favorably, it was said at the weekend, following a meeting between the companies and the Guild before Commissioner James W. Fitzpatrick of the U. S. Conciliation Service.

The next meeting will be held in two weeks.

M. and P. Gets State

BOSTON, Jan. 21.—The M. and P. circuit has taken over the State in Taunton and will enlarge and modernize the house. M. and P. officials also report that the circuit will no longer be associated with the Strand, Taunton.

SMPE Claims Video in Theatres Aided by FCC

(Continued from page 1)

engineer, who presented the organization's petition to the FCC, and SMPE's television committee, all feel that the FCC granted what they sought in promising that "consideration will be given to applications for experimental authorization on the frequencies between 480 and 920 megacycles allocated to broadcasting on the basis that the use of these frequencies will be discontinued when needed for broadcasting." He pointed out that this will provide ample opportunity for experimentation on pickup, inter-city and intra-city television links. The experimenters can request specific allocations when they have completed their experimentation, Hyndman said.

"The motion picture industry now has the right to experiment on specific frequency bands allotted for the purpose," Hyndman emphasized. "SMPE is almost unanimous in its feeling that it has scored a victory for the industry," he added, pointing out that the industry is given free reign to discover the frequencies it will actually need.

SMPE's television committee headed by Dr. Peter C. Goldmark, CBS chief television engineer, includes Paul Raibourn, Paramount; Nathan Levinson, Warner Bros.; Lester B. Isaac, Loew's; Ralph B. Austrian, RKO; E. I. Sponable, 20th Century-Fox; Herbert Griffin, International Projector; Charles Horstman, RKO Theatres; T. T. Goldsmith, DuMont Television; Dr. Alfred N. Goldsmith and others.

The FCC merely declined to assign specific frequencies for theatre television, explaining that it could not do so since it is still in the experimental stage of development, it was pointed out.

Expressing satisfaction with the new FCC allocations for television, J. R. Poppele, president of Television Broadcasters Association said, "TBA earnestly believes that further experimentation in television will bring new wonders to the public in years to come. It is extremely pleased that the recommendations of the Radio Technical Planning Board and TBA, that space in the spectrum be provided for experimental development, has been accepted by the Commission. This space for experimentation is to be available between 480 and 920 megacycles (also available for experimentation on theatre television) and I feel certain the industry will apply itself most arduously to the task of solving the problems which these ultra high frequencies present."

Allen B. DuMont, head of DuMont Television, also expressed satisfaction with the new allocations.

16 Nominated for Academy Art Awards

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 21.—Nine pictures in black-and-white and seven in color have been nominated for art direction awards in the 17th annual awards ceremony of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Black-and-whites: "Address Unknown," Columbia; "Adventures of Mark Twain," Warners; "Casanova Brown," International-RKO; "Gaslight," M-G-M; "Laura," 20th-Fox; "No Time for Love," Paramount; "Since You Went Away," Selznick-UA; "Song of the Open Road," Charles Rogers-UA; "Step Lively," RKO Radio.

Color: "Climax," Universal; "Cover Girl," Columbia; "Desert Song," W.B.; "Kismet," M-G-M; "Lady in the Dark," Paramount; "Princess and the Pirate," Goldwyn-RKO; "Wilson," 20th-Fox.

Winners will be determined by a committee.

Cartoonists Denied 20% on Reissues

(Continued from page 1)

that property right in product rests with the owner.

A Guild spokesman told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that SCG officers, directors and counsel would study the directive over the weekend before deciding whether to ask within the legal seven days for reconsideration .

Mochrie's Mother Dies

Funeral services were held on Saturday at the Walter Cook funeral home here for Mrs. Emily R. Mochrie, mother of Robert Mochrie, RKO general sales manager. Burial was at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Harry Gold Held Three UA Meetings

Harry L. Gold, United Artists Eastern sales manager, will return to New York today after holding company sales meetings in Philadelphia, Boston and Cleveland.

Accompanied by his assistant, Phil Dow, Gold attended the Philadelphia meeting conducted by district manager Sam Lefkowitz, on Friday; Saturday he was present at the Boston meeting, conducted by district manager James Winn for branch managers and salesmen from Boston, Buffalo and New Haven. On Sunday, Gold attended the Cleveland meeting presided over by district manager Jack D. Goldhar and attended by branch managers and salesmen from Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit and Pittsburgh.

Gov. Tobin at Boston Art Reopening

BOSTON, Jan. 21.—Gov. Maurice J. Tobin, acting mayor John E. Kerrigan, the French consul and his staff, and other state, city, industry and press representatives were among those invited to the reopening of the Fine Arts Theatre here on Friday. A luncheon was served at the Hotel Statler previous to the opening.

The theatre has been leased to John Markle and Leonard Tuttle. It has a policy of showing foreign films.

Macaulay Post Dinner

BOSTON, Jan. 21.—Members of the theatrical Macaulay Post of the American Legion, here, are in charge of arrangements for the National Commander's dinner-conference to be held at the Hotel Statler Feb. 3. Adjutant Richard Sullivan, publicist, is in charge of reservations.

New Ad Space Cut In Boston Papers

BOSTON, Jan. 21.—Local newspapers notified theatres here this week that film advertising space will be held to a minimum, for both national and local advertising.

The *Traveler*, morning and evening, gave its schedule for a first-run picture as 140 lines in one three-column insertion or 100 lines in one two-column insertion, with the alternative of 50 lines in two columns inserted twice, for a maximum of 480 lines.

The *Post* will hold to a maximum of 200 lines daily. In some instances, this will be taken by theatres for front page advertising, which does not exist in other metropolitan centers.

The *Globe* will hold rigidly to its tightened policy. In the *Record* and *American*, Hearst tabloids, advertisements are also limited to smaller space. The *Christian Science Monitor*, which has never used large displays and accepts advertising only for approved pictures, has not announced any change.

Tub Thumpers Elect Five New Officers

BOSTON, Jan. 21.—Newly-elected officers of the Tub Thumbers, here, besides Harry Browning, whose presidency was previously reported, are: George Carens, vice-president; Marjorie Spriggs, treasurer; Al Fowler, secretary; Dan Hickey, clerk. Members of the board are: Joe Di Pesa, Col. Walter Brown, Fred Knight, Mary Ann Sullivan, Eliot Norton and George Lasker.

It was revealed that applications for the establishment of chapters had been received from 15 other cities.

Actors May Give Part Time to War Plants

A proposal that members of the theatrical profession be permitted to work part time in war plants and continue in their stage jobs is being considered by the League of New York Theatres as a means of keeping shows open in the event of work-or-fight legislation which would seriously deplete the ranks of actors, singers and dancers, it was learned here at the weekend.

Garden Settles Suit

An action by the Madison Square Garden Corp. here, against Warners, was settled out of New York Federal Court Friday. The suit had sought an injunction and an accounting of profits of "Mission to Moscow," the Garden claiming that Warners had injected scenes of two rallies held at the Garden into the film without permission.

'Bataan' Opens Jan. 31

"Pledge to Bataan," Warner color documentary based on Gen. Douglas MacArthur's return to the Philippines, will have its Broadway premiere at the Hollywood Theatre Jan. 31 and will be released nationally immediately.

Cowboy, Smith Killed

BOSTON, Jan. 21.—Pvt. Joseph W. Smith, son of Harry Smith of RKO, and John Cowboy, former employe of Deckers Film Transportation, have been killed in action in Europe.

Columbia's

"A SONG TO

BROKE EVER

HOUSE RECO

SAN FRANCIS

OAKLAND . . .

ON THURSDA

REMEMBER"

Y EXISTING

RD *in its first 2 openings*

CO...Orpheum

Roxy

Y . . . . . .

Salesmen's Union Is Brought Up at Meet Of M.P. Associates

Charging the industry with failure to provide economic security for its workers, and stressing its failure to set up a charity to provide relief for industry members in sickness and indigency, Harry Brandt, guest speaker, president of the ITOA and one of the largest independent film buyers in the territory, on Friday encouraged the formation of a union for film salesmen, at an installation luncheon of Motion Picture Associates at the Hotel Astor. The MPA is composed principally of salesmen.

(Several companies recently have adopted pension plans for employes; and, headed by Walter Vincent, several industry leaders have been at work for months on the formation of an industry philanthropic organization.)

Good Attendance

Many salesmen of this territory were present at the luncheon to install Morris Sanders as president, and Jack Ellis, as first vice-president. Sanders is with 20th Century-Fox, and Ellis is with United Artists.

Sanders announced that MPA will produce a short film to raise funds for MPA's charities and that MPA plans hospitalization and group insurance for members. It will also donate an ambulance to the Red Cross.

Other officers installed at the luncheon included: Howard Levy, second vice-president; Saul Trauner, treasurer; Charles Penser, financial secretary; Morris Fraum, recording secretary; Leo Abrams and Seymour Schussel, trustees; Louis I. Kutinsky, sergeant-at-arms; Charles Berliner, chaplain. MPA board of directors, of which Ellis is chairman, includes Sam Rinzler, Jack Hatton, Jack Bowen, David Snaper, Leo Abrams, David Levy, James Frank, Jr., J. J. Felder, Moe Kurtz, Harold Klein and Cy Seymour. Harold Rodner, Warner Bros., was master of ceremonies at the installation. Major Harry Miller and 1st Lt. Wilbur Snaper were guests of honor.

No Complaints

Although salesmen at the luncheon were reluctant to discuss the new union, they stress it is being organized solely for economic security, and that they have no complaints against wage policies and working conditions.

A committee of three has been set up, it is learned, to study an affiliation for the new organization. The report of the committee will be heard at a meeting to be held shortly, second for the new group. Jacob Leff, attorney for Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors of New York and a member of the board of UIE, whose name has been linked to the new salesmen's union, is drawing up necessary papers, and is not otherwise affiliated with the group. (As reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY last Thursday, the IATSE is favorably disposed toward the organization of film salesmen under its banner.

Col. to Entertain

Columbia will be host tomorrow at a cocktail party at the Copacabana for Janet Blair and Lee Bowman.

Freeman Says Paramount Studio Is at New Peak

(*Continued from page* 1)

placing of Ginsberg in charge was at my request," Freeman said. "He is eminently fitted for the task. He brings to Paramount all of the qualities of a fine executive and a full knowledge of the motion picture industry gained through an intimate association with it over the last 20 years.

"My own association with Paramount couldn't be happier than it is at the present time. I started in the motion picture business with Paramount, and my association with this great company over a span of some 20 years signifies to me a relationship with the individuals within the company which has grown to mean to me much more than a mere commercial venture on my part."

Freeman said that the unit headed by William H. Pine and William H. Thomas "is doing a good, conscientious job of production."

Barney Balaban, Paramount president, welcomed the guests on behalf of the company and the home office group. He paid particular tribute to the representatives of the circuits not associated with Paramount who came to New York under difficult traveling conditions to attend the advertising-exploitation meeting.

Others who addressed the sessions included Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board; David Rose, Paramount's British managing director; Robert M. Gillham, director of advertising-publicity; George A. Smith, Western division manager; Alec Moss, exploitation director; Al Wilkie, publicity manager, and Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution.

Discussing campaigns and plans for the popular price release of "For Whom the Bell Tolls," Reagan said the picture already is one of the industry's top box office grosses with more than 13,000 theatres still unplayed.

In a tribute to advertising, exploitation and publicity men, Reagan said: "Advertising is and always has been the life-blood of our business. I have never believed there are only three branches of our industry—production, distribution and exhibition. There are four branches, and advertising is equally as important from the standpoint of good operation as any of the other three branches. You men whom we have called in for your help and advice on 'For Whom the Bell Tolls' are the recognized leaders of your profession."

Freeman told the meeting that in "A Medal for Benny," Paramount has a picture with the same fundamental qualities as "Going My Way."

Films Big Factor In Winning of War

(*Continued from page* 1)

never gone before or more often than once or twice a month will be regular patrons from now on. I would estimate the new weekly attendance in the post-war period at millions," Major Hubbell stated.

(Lt. James O'Shea, son of E. K. O'Shea, M-G-M Eastern sales manager, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY Thursday that gift-films will make millions of post-war new customers.)

An average of 150 prints are used weekly, 50 each of three different pictures. The Army is now taking 156 films yearly, although in stabilized areas such as Alaska, the Army takes 200 yearly. Neither German civilians nor prisoners of war are permitted to see the films. The average "GI" in a non-combat area sees three different pictures weekly, 150 a year, against the average civilian's 62, Hubbell disclosed.

The Major stated that the projector difficulty of a year ago had been solved, and that replacement parts are adequate. He said that more newsreels were needed, and more shorts, and declared that "Going My Way," "Song of Bernadette," "Two Girls and a Sailor" and "Home in Indiana" were among the most popular films. He went into detail on training films which, he said, did the work of thousands of officers, and without which, he stated, "we would not have had an Army ready in time."

Film Classics Meeting

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 21.—Film Classics' franchise holders will meet at the Coronado Hotel here Jan. 27-28.

Rank's Two Cities to Make Five: Sistrom

(*Continued from page* 1)

been here from England since Nov. 1, and will return in about a week.

The five which will be produced this year are: "Rendezvous," by Terence Rattigan, with Anthony Asquith directing; "Men of Two Worlds," in color, to be directed by Thorold Dickinson; "Carnival"; "Hungry Hill," from the Daphne du Maurier story, and Duff Cooper's "Talleyrand." Winston Churchill's book on the Duke of Marlborough will be filmed in 1946, Sistrom said.

Five films finished, which UA is releasing, or will release, are: "Mr. Emmanuel," "Henry V," in color, Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" and "This Happy Breed," and "My Man Gilbey," by Terence Rattigan.

There will be considerable studio building in England after the war, Sistrom observed, to replace studios destroyed and damaged by bombing; to replace obsolete building for which it will be cheaper to erect new studios than to reequip, and to cover that normal building which was blocked in the last five years because of the war.

Although British producers are attempting to make better films without imitating Hollywood, at the same time they are taking cognizance of requirements for the world market, he said. Sistrom said that American and English film tastes run parallel, citing the success of "Going My Way" in both countries.

Preston Joins Hare

Joel Preston has resigned from the Moe Gale publicity staff to become an associate of Spencer Hare here.

Relieve Cameramen In Newsreel Pool

(*Continued from page* 1)

weekend by Claude Collins, industry coordinator of the pool.

The six French cameramen, who will each be assigned to an individual newsreel to operate out of the Paris office, are: Jules Delalands, George Mejat, Raymond Mejat, Gaston Madru, Dion Martelliere and Yves Naintre. Naintre will act temporarily as newsreel pool manager for the European area, and the others have been assigned with American forces on the German front.

The new men will relieve Americans who have been in Europe since the beginning of the war. John Bockhorst of M-G-M's News of the Day, Robert Blair of Fox Movietone, Jack Lieb of News of the Day, and Neil Sullivan of Pathe have been recalled to this country and, except Sullivan, now are awaiting new assignments. Still in Europe is Thomas A. Priestley of Universal Newsreel, who will be brought back shortly.

Other Changes

Other changes recently made in the war staff of the pool, Collins said, include the recall from the Pacific of Earl Crotchett and Irving Smith of Universal, Langdon Senick of Movietone and Howard Winner of Pathe. Winner was the first motion picture cameraman to fly over Tokyo on a bombing mission.

Assignments to the Pacific include Norman Alley of News of the Day, who was on a bombing mission over Manila shortly after he relieved Crockett, and Robert Donahue, Jr., of Pathe News, who was brought home from Italy to recuperate from jaundice.

New Film Laboratory Association Formed

Movie Film Laboratory Association has been chartered in Albany in an effort to tie all of the smaller film processors in the East together, to improve conditions in the laboratory field, enforce trade practices and work for the betterment of both employers and employees.

The MFLA will have a directorate of seven who will serve until the first annual meeting; they are: Russell C. Holslag, Precision Laboratory; Nathan Saland, Mercury; Saul Jeffee, Movielab; Jacob Cosman, Producers; Joe Malcolm, Malcolm Laboratories; John N. Weber, Mecca, and Paul Guffanti, Film Service.

Two Mass. Bills to Curb Speculators

BOSTON, Jan. 21.—Two bills have been introduced in the state Senate to place a curb on ticket speculators and agencies. The measures will be heard shortly.

One of the proposed bills states that no ticket shall be sold at a higher price than the one appearing on the printed ticket; another specifies a heavy penalty for agencies or individuals charging more than ceiling prices.

USO Board Elects

Russel Crouse, Moss Hart, Richard Rodgers and Herman Shumlin have been elected to the board of USO-Camp Shows.

GREER GARSON

RAISES THE ANTE!

In 1944 the Greer Garson Trailer provided the extra punch that raised $4,500,000 for polio victims. That's 45 million dimes. Miss Garson raises the ante to $5,000,000 . . . and hopes that you'll raise her . . . that's 50,000,000 dimes! . . . Greer Garson's heartrending new 1945 trailer, "The Miracle of Hickory", tells briefly of the polio epidemic that hit Hickory, N. C., last summer. It answers the question of "What becomes of the money we give?" It shows children actually being saved . . . dimes marching into action against the enemy . . . The four and a half million dollar wallop of 1944 amply proved the selling power of GOOD trailers, and how they soften people's hearts and open their purses . . . WE have the proud privilege of distributing this film of mercy . . . YOU have the inestimable opportunity of showing it to your patrons . . . to their applause of your public spirit . . . CONTACT YOUR NEAREST NSS BRANCH AT ONCE! . . . MARCH OF DIMES WEEK — January 25-31.

"Please, Mister, Do Your Best!"

NATIONAL *Screen* SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

A Plain Statement about a GREAT Picture!

"We confidently predict this picture is one of the best we will see this year!"

—*NEW YORK TIMES*

. . . and echoed by all the other New York newspaper critics

Shivery, simon-pure suspense . . . "Mr. Emmanuel" is one of those things that will glue you to your seat . . . this is one of the most noteworthy cinemas now on Broadway.
—*N. Y. Daily Mirror*

The story carries a terrific emotional jolt to the beholder.
—*N. Y. Daily News*

Taut and gripping drama . . . sustains a tense and compelling mood.
—*N. Y. Journal-American*

"Mr. Emmanuel" wins a welcome . . . he's the kind of man it is good for all of us to meet!
—*N. Y. PM*

Warm and stirring . . . touches the heart-strings and calls forth teary-eyed laughter.
—*N. Y. Post*

G.C.F
presents

"Mr. Emmanuel"

starring
FELIX AYLMER with GRETA GYNT and WALTER RILLA
From a novel by Louis Golding • Directed by Harold French • Produced by William Sistrom • Released thru United Artists

A Two Cities Films Production Made in London, England

Yes, Mr. E. (that's for Mr. Exhibitor) it's from U.A!

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 16 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1945 | TEN CENTS

Admissions at Keys Average $15,200 Week

Average Increase $1,030 Per Theatre Over '43

In a year marked by consistently high grosses seldom, if ever, exceeded for a twelvemonth, 143 key-city first-run theatres maintained a $15,200 weekly box-office average throughout 1944, over $1,000 ahead of the average in 1943, according to the annual tabulation of reports from Motion Picture Daily field correspondents.

A total gross of $122,690,200 for the year was amassed by the 143 key houses included in the reports, a gain of $9,660,-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Montague Presides At Columbia Meet

Although it was the original intention of Columbia to have the majority of its national sales force, as well as prominent exhibitors from all sections of the country, see "A Song to Remember" at its New York premiere, the company has decided to alter its arrangements, in line with Government rulings against large business meetings, and, instead, has set a three-day meeting here, starting tomorrow, for 31 branch and seven district mana-

A. Montague

(*Continued on page 8*)

RKO Queries RWLB Action in Dispute

RKO yesterday challenged the jurisdiction of a panel of the Regional War Labor Board over its contract dispute with Motion Picture Theatre Operating Managers and Assistant Managers Guild, representing managers and assistant managers in 40 RKO theatres in Metropolitan New

(*Continued on page 6*)

Similar Themes on Duals Are Growing

Chicago, Jan. 22.—The use of two pictures with similar themes on the same program recently innovated by B. and K. in ace neighborhood houses, has been adopted by Jones, Linick and Schaefer, currently featuring "Arsenic and Old Lace" and "The Canterville Ghost" in the McVicker's, and Warners, using this week "The Conspirators" and "Woman in the Window" in the Avalon.

Bookers argue that fans of a particular theme prefer two on a program to one added feature that is foreign to their tastes.

'Fighting Lady' in Lead at N.Y. Houses

With New York's first-runs getting a break in the weather last weekend after being hit by snowstorms twice successively, grosses at most of the houses showed improvement; holdovers continue to dominate. Radio City Music Hall, Roxy, Strand and Capitol will bring in new films this week.

Outstanding this week is the Navy's documentary, "The Fighting Lady," at the Victoria, where, with a comparatively tremendous $27,000 recorded for the first five days, ending Sunday night, a record $37,000 is ex-

(*Continued on page 7*)

No Raw Stock Improvement

The outlook for the industry to avoid any substantial portion of the 27,000,000 feet raw stock cut appeared slimmer here yesterday with the return from Washington of George J. Schaefer, chairman of the War Activities Committee and industry liaison with the WPB. Schaefer conferred with WPB officials last week and plans to go to Washington again this week for further conferences.

Schaefer, who has been studying the

(*Continued on page 7*)

Selznick, Saphier Agencies Merged

Hollywood, Jan. 22.—Myron Selznick and Co., pioneer film talent agency, will be taken over by a group headed by James L. Saphier and Tom Fizdale, according to a joint announcement here yesterday from Saphier and the executors of the late Myron Selznick's estate: David O. Selznick, Charles H. Sachs and Harry M. Bardt, the latter vice-president of the Bank of America. The new firm will be known, temporarily, as Myron Selznick, James L. Saphier and Co.

The business of the present Saphier and Selznick offices will be handled by the merged personnel of both

(*Continued on page 8*)

'Teeth' in N.Y. Building Code By a New Law

Enforcement Bill Would Eliminate Exemptions

Legislation is expected to be introduced shortly in the New York State Legislature, at Albany, to give the new building code now being promulgated by the State Labor Department's advisory committee the full teeth of law and eliminate exemptions of certain types of structures from its provisions.. A new law, rather than the present mere enabling act, would make enforcement of the code much stricter.

A spokesman for the advisory committee said here yesterday that the members of the advisory committee drafting the new code, which will apply to some 750 theatres in New York State, excluding New York City, is in complete agreement that new legislation is necessary. It was indicated that the legislation might

(*Continued on page 8*)

New York Police to Enforce 'Brownout'

Washington, Jan. 22.—New York theatre exteriors will be darkened next week under the auspices of New York's police force, which has been placed by Mayor LaGuardia at the service of the War Production Board to assist in enforcing the 'brownout' which goes into effect Feb. 1, it was disclosed here today by WPB chairman J. A. Krug.

Krug revealed that Edward Falck,

(*Continued on page 8*)

Strike Threat Held Off Till Wednesday

Hollywood, Jan. 22.—Screen Set Decorators Local 1421, which last week threatened a studio strike unless the War Labor Board took definit action toward settling its jurisdictional dispute with the IATSE,

(*Continued on page 4*)

Johnston Deal with Hays Office Still in Discussion Status

Confirming rumors that have been in circulation for some time, it has been learned that representatives of the Motion Picture Producers & Distributors of America, Inc., have been conducting discussions with Eric Johnston, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

The discussions have been with a view to the possibility of Johnston becoming president of the association, in which case Will H. Hays would become chairman of the board. Hays has been party to the discussions and it is understood that he favors an arrangement under which Johnston would play an important part in the post-war plans of the association.

The proposal relative to Johnston contemplates Hays' continued activity in the affairs of the associaion with which he has a contract which runs until March, 1946. It is authoritatively stated that no immediate action in the matter is planned because of Johnston's present commitments and because the proposed arrangements are being considered alongside the whole problem of future developments and operations of the association.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Reports that Eric Johnston would join the Hays Office failed to bring any comment from Johnston here today, but it was indicated at the U. S. Chamber of Commerce that no contract has yet been signed and the whole matter is still in the discussion and negotiation stage.

Reviewed Today

Review of "The Great Flamarion" appears on page 7.

Offer Loop Run to Goldwyn-Selznick

CHICAGO, Jan. 22.—James Jovaney, general manager of Globe Film Co., who has bought the Monroe Theatre Building, housing the Loop's Monroe Theatre, from the Northwest Trust Co., reportedly will attempt to line up David O. Selznick and Samuel Goldwyn product for the house, in a deal similar to that recently completed for the Astor Theatre. He will also try to line up United Artists product, since UA films have been delayed or sent to second run houses because of a lack of "A" outlets in the Loop.

The Monroe is currently operated as a second-run, double feature house by Lubliner and Trinz. Trinz told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that his company still has a three to nine-month lease on the house, the legality of the term yet to be decided.

Jovaney, who is at present in New York, is a distributor of unusual features, his latest being "The Power of God."

James Mulvey, vice-president of Samuel Goldwyn, Inc., in New York disclaimed, yesterday, any knowledge of overtures by Jovaney for the acquisition of Goldwyn product for the Monroe.

Famous Players 25th Birthday Today

TORONTO, Jan. 22.—A 25th Anniversary dinner of Famous Players Canadian Corp., will be held here tomorrow, with president J. J. Fitzgibbons presiding. A feature of the dinner will be the installation of original employees in the 25 Year Club.

A similar dinner will be held in Vancouver on Jan. 30 for the company's Western division. Fitzgibbons, vice-president R. W. Bolstad and J. R. Nairn, director of advertising, will go to Vancouver for the latter.

Seeks to Organize Coast Theatre Help

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—Irwin Waite, former cashier at the Hollywood Paramount, today called a meeting of Hollywood theatre cashiers, doormen, usherettes, to form a union. Waite said plans do not include managers and the movement is not inspired by any existing organization.

Although the Hollywood is now the only house involved, the organization will be expanded to include all Los Angeles theatres if successful.

LeRoy Starts First For WB In 6 Weeks

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—Mervyn LeRoy's first Arrowhead production for Warners will be "The Fountainhead," with production to start in six weeks. Henry Blanke will produce and Humphrey Bogart and Barbara Stanwick will co-star.

Leroy recently signed a long-tem deal with Warners for a series of films to be directed by him for Arrowhead at the Warner studio.

Personal Mention

NEIL AGNEW, Vanguard vice-president and distribution head, arrived on the Coast yesterday for conferences with DAVID O. SELZNICK.

•

SAUL KRIEG of the Paramount press book department here and MRS. KRIEG are the parents of a daughter, BONNIE JO, born Sunday at Lying-In Hospital.

•

LT. ROBERT TAYLOR, USNR, and his wife, BARBARA STANWYCK, left New York yesterday for the West Coast.

•

WILLIAM C. GEHRING, 20th Century-Fox Western sales manager, left New York yesterday on a visit to branch offices.

•

DALE MCFARLAND, Tri-States Theatres' publicity head, has returned to Des Moines from a New York business trip.

•

R. J. INGRAM, Columbia Southern division manager, will arrive in New York from Charlotte tomorrow.

•

SHIRLEY BROWN, daughter of MANNIE BROWN, Paramount Buffalo branch manager, is engaged to BERNARD COHN.

•

PVT. CHARLES HARTER, former Columbia Buffalo booker, is recovering from wounds received in combat in Germany.

•

BILL BAKER, Republic Midwest district head, will leave Chicago in late February for a three-week Coast trip.

•

HENRI ELMAN, PRC franchise holder in Chicago, will return there from the Coast the first week in March, after four months in Hollywood.

•

ELIA KAZAN and JOHN BRAHM, 20th Century-Fox directors, have arrived in New York.

•

SAM BLOOM, Paramount's theatre associate in Toronto, was a recent visitor in Buffalo.

•

DAVE FREEDMAN, assistant booker for Paramount in Buffalo, has returned there from Birmingham, Ala.

•

JAMES JOVANEY, Globe Film Co. general manager, Chicago, is in New York on business.

•

CLYDE ECKHARDT, 20th-Fox Los Angeles branch manager, has left Chicago for the Coast.

•

BEN JUDELL, producer, is in Chicago, enroute to New York from the Coast.

•

SOL LESSER has arrived from the Coast.

New Toronto Film Office

TORONTO, Jan. 22.—The National Film Board of the Dominion has opened a new branch here to facilitate the release of its product to industrial, school, trade union and rural circuits, which it supervises.

OSCAR DOOB, advertising and publicity director of Loew's Theatres, returned to New York from the Coast yesterday.

•

WILLIAM W. BRUMBERG, head of Warners' field public relations staff under MORT BLUMENSTOCK, will be guest speaker at today's meeting of the Queens Federation of Women's Club, Motion Picture Council, in Jamaica.

•

BERNARD GOODMAN, Warner Bros. assistant supervisor of exchanges, and MRS. GOODMAN are the parents of a son, ALFRED NELSON, born Sunday at Jewish Hospital, Brooklyn.

•

RICHARD WALSH, I.A.T.S.E. president, WILLIAM P. RAOUL, assistant president, and JAMES F. BRENNAN, vice-president, have returned to New York from Minneapolis.

•

MORT BLUMENSTOCK, head of Warners' advertising and publicity in the East, and LARRY GOLOB, Eastern publicity manager, left New York last night for Atlanta and Macon, Ga.

•

LEO F. SAMUELS, manager of Walt Disney Productions' foreign department, has returned to New York from the Caribbean area and Central America.

•

HOWARD DIETZ, vice-president in charge of advertising, publicity and exploitation of Loew's, Inc., will return to New York from the Coast on Friday.

•

SAMUEL GOLDWYN is now scheduled to arrive in New York from Hollywood on Feb. 5, having postponed a planned earlier trip.

•

COLETTE FORSTER of the United Artists staff in Cleveland, was married recently to RM 2/C WILLIAM MCEWEEN of the Coast Guard.

•

JOE V. GERBACH, manager of the Ames Theatre, Ames, Ia., recently began his 33rd year as a showman in that town.

•

E. T. GOMERSALL, Universal's assistant general sales manager, is visiting in Detroit.

•

MARY PICKFORD left St. Luke's Hospital here yesterday after four days' treatment for grippe.

•

SIDNEY S. KULICK, PRC's Eastern district sales manager, left yesterday for Pittsburgh.

•

ROY BRAUR, Universal's branch manager in Atlanta, is on a business trip to Florida.

•

MERRITT DAVIS, Southern division manager for Republic in Dallas, is visiting in Atlanta.

$66,791,319 for CBS

Columbia Broadcasting's gross billings for 1944 totaled $66,791,319. General Foods was the highest time purchaser, with $5,537,409; Young and Rubicam, the agency, bought the most time, $7,966,037 worth.

Republic '44 Spending To Double This Year

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—H. J. Yates told delegates to the Republic sales convention here today that the company will double its 1944 expenditures in 1945 production. Stressing the importance of foreign markets, Yates said: "This is no time to be satisfied, but to achieve even wider distribution and prestige."

He revealed that Republic will make two technicolor pictures during the year and will concentrate on developing star personalities. The convention will continue tomorrow.

NEW YORK THEATRES

SECOND THRILL WEEK!
Erich Von Stroheim — Mary Beth Hughes
The Great Flamarion
with
Dan Duryea — Stephen Barclay
A Republic Picture
REPUBLIC THEATRE
B'way, Bet. 51st & 52nd Sts.
FIRST N. Y. SHOWING!

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50TH STREET & 6TH AVENUE
M-G-M's
"NATIONAL VELVET"
MICKEY ROONEY
DONALD CRISP - ELIZABETH TAYLOR
JACKIE JENKINS - REGINALD OWEN
and THE MUSIC HALL'S
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
'30 SECONDS OVER TOKYO'
SPENCER TRACY
VAN JOHNSON
ROBT. WALKER
IN PERSON
JEAN PARKER
JOEY ADAMS

20TH CENTURY-FOX PRESENTS
A. J. Cronin's
"THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM"
Continuous Performances
RIVOLI
B'way & 49th St.

BING CROSBY
BETTY HUTTON
SONNY TUFTS
In Person
Woody HERMAN
and His Orchestra
ALL-STAR REVUE
"Here Come the Waves"
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
HEDY LAMARR
GEORGE BRENT - PAUL LUKAS
"Experiment Perilous"
An RKO Picture

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1945's

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IT'S A MERRY-GO-ROUNDUP OF RIP-ROARING... RHYTHM-SOARING... THRILL ENTERTAINMENT!

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MARIE "BUTCH" AUSTIN

FOY WILLING AND HIS RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE

ACTION STARS!

SING STARS!

SWING STARS!

ROMANTIC STARS!

RADIO STARS!

Original Screen Play by J. Benton Cheney and Elizabeth Beecher
Produced by COLBERT CLARK
Directed by VERNON KEAYS

Kobak Outlines New Policies for Mutual

Edgar Kobak, president of Mutual Broadcasting, stressed that emphasis will be placed on building Mutual as a compact network rather than a loosely affiliated group of some 249 stations, 212 of which can carry a network program, at the radio trade press luncheon at the Hotel New Weston here yesterday.

Kobak outlined contemplated changes in the network's operating, sales and programming policies in a discussion of Mutual's present situation in competition with the other three networks. Sales policies are being revamped, Kobak said, so that the selling of time will be keyed to the full network rather than blocks of stations. Rates are also being overhauled. New emphasis is being given to station relations and new program ideas, Kobak pointed out. He also disclosed that a new corporate set-up is being studied.

Buckam Over Sales

Duncan R. Buckam will head a new Mutual Eastern sales division, Kobak disclosed, and a new commission plan for salesmen is being considered. Mutual also intends to put war-effort programs on a continuous weekly basis rather than confine them to "one-shots," Kobak said. He pointed out that Mutual is in television through the Don Lee Broadcasting System in California, one of its affiliates, and is also in frequency-modulation through the Yankee Network, another affiliate.

Monogram Pays Out $30,000 for Bonus

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—Monogram has distributed some $30,000 as its annual employees' bonus for 1944, to studio, home office and company-owned exchanges in New York, Philadelphia and Washington. Senior officers do not participate in the distribution.

The lowest-salaried employe who has been with the company for a minimum of two years receives $255.

Law Successor to Be Chosen Tomorrow

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—Directors of the Southern California Theatre Owners Association today adjourned after a short session devoted to discussing the choice of a successor to the late Albert J. Law as executive secretary and general counsel. They will reconvene tomorrow for further considerations expected to culminate in an announcement of a selection following a meeting on Wednesday.

Watch
U. A. releases
bearing
G.C.F.
Presents

Eyssell to Head Show for Roosevelt Birthday Party

G. S. Eyssell, managing director of Radio City Music Hall, will be in charge of entertainment for President Roosevelt's 'Dimes' birthday party at the Waldorf-Astoria, here, on Jan. 30. The production will be produced by Leon Leonidoff, with settings by Bruno Maine, and the stage direction will be under Irving Evans, with dances by Florence Rogge. Music will be under direction of Erno Rapee.

The show will start with a four network broadcast of the Jack Benny show, to be followed with a special prologue by Bert Lytell, which will lead into the President's annual birthday talk from the White House. Filling out the balance of the program will be Beatrice Lillie, Benny Goodman, Joan McCracken, the chorus from "Bloomer Girl," the Music Hall Glee Club, June Forrest and the Drum Ballet.

California's $650,000 Goal in 'Dimes' Drive

A pledge that Northern California alone will raise more than $400,000 in the 'Dimes' drive was received by Harry Brandt, yesterday from George Mann, co-chairman for California. California exhibitors are aiming at a $650,000 goal, having collected $477,-129 in 1944.

Loew's Theatres has set a $500,000 goal for the drive, having raised $443,-781 in 1944. Total pledges received are 13,641, almost 2,000 more than in 1944.

Harry Katz and Ken Collins, chairmen for Indiana, and A. J. Finke, Oregon chairman, have reported their States are over the top on pledged theatres.

Skouras Broadcast to Aid 'Dimes' Drive

Skouras Theatres will salute the birthday of President Roosevelt and the March of Dimes on the broadcast of "This Is Our Cause," over WOR, here, Jan. 27. Guest artist will be Alexander Kipnis of the Metropolitan Opera, with Annette Burford, soprano and Earl Palmer, tenor, permanent artists on the program also appearing.

RKO Branch Meeting To Be Held Today

The last, but one, of RKO branch conferences for the Ned Depinet sales drive, will be held today at the New York exchange, with 'captain' Robert Folliard and 'lieutenant' Harry Gittleson, drive leaders, presiding. Attending the meeting will be: Nat Levy, Eastern sales manager; Charles Boasberg, Metropolitan district manager; Phil Hodes, branch manager; Herman Silverman, office manager; Lou Kutinsky, John J. Dacey, Charles Penser and E. T. Carroll of the sales staff; William Hartman, Jean Slade, Dorothy Post, Lillian Vallon, Murray Blutrich, bookers, plus a delegation from the home office.

The final meeting will be held by Folliard and Gittleson in Philadelphia, tomorrow, with representatives from Washington, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

Strike Threat Held Off Till Wednesday

(*Continued from page* 1)

went into a membership meeting tonight with unofficial assurance that a telegram from the WLB conveying official notification of an arbitrator's being appointed would be received from Washington.

A decorators' spokesman told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that the membership would be informed of all circumstances and that preparations have been made for a walkout, probably Wednesday, unless tangible action is taken by the WLB. A producers' labor contact said the matter rests wholly in the WLB's hands.

Cleveland Exhibitors To Elect Feb. 15

CLEVELAND, Jan. 22.—The Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Association will hold its annual meeting to elect officers Feb. 15, preceeded by a luncheon. Ernest Schwartz, president for the last 11 years, will probably be re-elected.

Bloom Mgrs. Elect Ross as President

TORONTO, Jan. 22.—Lou Ross, manager of the Lansdowne Theatre, has been elected president of the B and F Managers Association of the Bloom and Fine Circuit, a subsidiary of Famous Players Canadian Corp. Ross succeeds Tom Waterfield of the Eastwood Theatre.

Others elected were: Ted Smith, York Theatre, secretary; Leo Bloom, Century, treasurer; and, Art Grover, Carlton; Ron Hall, Gerrard, and Jack Hutt, La Plaza, directors.

SPU Offers Interim Agreement Proposal

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—Screen Players Union officials today presented to the producers' labor committee a plan for an interim agreement to govern the employment of extra players pending the outcome of negotiations for a contract. Following a three-hour meeting, which a joint statement described as friendly, a spokesman disclosed that the plan will be given further discussion at a second meeting in the near future.

Randforce Premium Suit

CLEVELAND, Jan. 22.—The Metro Premium, Boston, and Randforce Amusement Co., Brooklyn, have sought a preliminary injunction in U. S. District Court of Northeastern Ohio, against the W. S. George Pottery Co. of East Palestine, Ohio, to prevent the pottery company from refusing to deliver tableware to Metro and Randforce operated theatres.

Variety to Honor Stone

ALBANY, Jan. 22.—Local Variety will honor Abraham Stone, independent exhibitor here, at a dinner on Sunday at the Hotel Ten Eyck. An industry veteran, Stone has been in the business for 35 years and once served as head of New York State Allied. He operated the Eagle Theatre here for 17 years, selling out last summer.

Dismiss Complaint Of Colony Theatre

William A. McSwain, arbitrator in the Chicago tribunal, has dismissed the combination some-run, clearance complaint filed against the five consenting companies by R. J. Miller, operating the Colony Theatre, McHenry, Ill., the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

At the same time, the AAA reported that Benton Roy, operating the Roy Theatre, Mansura, La., has filed a some-run complaint against 20th-Fox, RKO, Warners and Paramount. Complainant alleges that although defendants have offered him product they have employed methods calculated to defeat the purpose of Section 6 of the consent decree.

Gallup to Report on Photoplay Poll

Dr. George Gallup of the Gallup Institute will report on Feb. 16 on the results of a poll he has conducted for *Photoplay Magazine*, on a survey of film audiences to determine who the public believes is America's most popular actress, actor and most popular picture.

This is understood to be the first time that a national public survey of this kind has been taken, all other public polls having been critics, trade publications or box office opinions. Gold medals will be given poll winners, when the announcement of the winners are made in the March issue of *Photoplay*, out on Feb. 16.

Cartoonists to Act on Appeal Tomorrow

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—The Screen Cartoonists Guild executive committee will meet Wednesday night to decide whether an appeal will be taken from the War Labor Board decision in the Walt Disney dispute settlement. SCG counsel said today that the Disney contract, from which the WLB eliminated a provision for cartoonists' sharing in grosses from reissues and television, doubtless will stand as a pattern for other cartoon studios in whatever form it is finally ratified.

Todd, Sears Still Talk U.A. Deal

Michael Todd is still negotiating with Gradwell Sears of United Artists for UA release of a number of productions he intends to make.

Twentieth Century-Fox is financing Todd's "Way Up In Central Park" on a 50 per cent basis, it was learned here yesterday. Todd tried to change the title to "Central Park," but Warners owns the title, having released such a picture in 1932, and reportedly refuses to relinquish it unless it acquires an interest in the play.

Cowan to Cincinnati

Lester Cowan, producer of "Tomorrow the World," will leave New York shortly for Cincinnati to appear on several radio programs and to attend a press reception there in connection with the mid-West premiere of the film at the Palace Theatre Jan. 30. Martin Starr, UA radio director is already in Cincinnati arranging for the premiere.

THE BIG BONANZA

STARRING
RICHARD ARLEN
ROBERT LIVINGSTON
JANE FRAZEE

WITH
GEORGE "GABBY" HAYES
and LYNNE ROBERTS
and BOBBY DRISCOLL
J. M. KERRIGAN

GEORGE ARCHAINBAUD – *Director*
Screen Play by DORRELL *and* STUART McGOWAN *and* PAUL GANGELIN
Original Story by ROBERT PRESNELL *and* LEONARD PRASKINS

A REPUBLIC PICTURE

BUY U. S. WAR BONDS

Rathvon Gets First Red Cross Pledges

N. Peter Rathvon, national chairman of the industry's Red Cross "War Fund Week," Mar. 15-21, announced here yesterday that pledge cards have been sent to 17,000 exhibitors in the U. S. and possessions, and acknowledgements of several hundred of them have already been received by Rathvon.

RKO Queries RWLB Action in Dispute

(*Continued from page* 1)

York, at a hearing before the panel here. The company's jurisdictional challenge was on the ground that the theatres involved are not connected with the prosecution of the war.

Issues discussed at the hearing included the questions of union security and dues checkoff; length of the work week for managers and assistants and overtime pay provisions for work in excess of 40 hours; a five-day week; holidays with pay; seniority and a preference to be given present managers and assistants.

Also discussed were the Guild's demands for grievance machinery and impartial arbitration of disputes. The RWLB panel was said to have pointed out that the WLB in previous cases has ruled favorably on the incorporation of such provisions into union contracts and is understood to have urged both parties to attempt to reach agreements on the provisions.

Next meeting before the panel will be held Wednesday, Jan. 31.

Agnew Will Appoint New Sales Head Soon

Neil Agnew, vice-president and general manager of Vanguard, has disclosed here that he will designate a successor to Hugh Owen soon. Owen resigned as general sales manager of Vanguard last Monday to return to Paramount as sales manager of the newly created New York and Southern division.

Agnew will leave for California this week for a brief visit and will probably designate a successor to Owen upon his return.

Complete First 2 of Six Sack Shorts

"Ration Blues," Negro musical short produced by Sack Amusement Enterprises of Dallas and Atlanta, has been completed as the first of a series of six Sack will release for its 25th anniversary. The series is being filmed at Filmcraft Sturios here under direction of William Crouch.

Sack will distribute through independent exchanges where it does not have its own facilities.

REEVES
SOUND STUDIOS, INC.
1600 BROADWAY, N. Y. 19 Circle 6-6686
Complete Film and Disc Recording Facilities

Box Office Receipts at Keys Average $15,200

(*Continued from page* 1)

306 over the preceding year, when 153 houses totaled $113,029,994. The weekly average per theatre of $15,200 for 1944 compares with $14,170 for 1943.

Although the pre-Christmas weeks of this past December showed the usual seasonal decline from the grosses of the month before, traceable to holiday shopping, the receipts, nevertheless continued to average more than $1,000 a week higher than the corresponding period in December, 1943.

The average per theatre fluctuated during 1944 between a low of $13,329 for the week ended March 31 and a high of $20,664 for the week ended Jan. 7. Other outstanding weeks were March 17-18, $18,761; Sept. 8-9, $18,775, and Dec. 1-2, $18,494. The 1943 range was from $11,240 to $18,967.

Two films, "And Now Tomorrow" and "The Woman in the Window," were tied for top box-office honors in December, appearing more often than any others as key-city grossing leaders in the field correspondents' reports. Likewise deadlocked, for second place, were "Frenchman's Creek" and "Mrs. Parkington," followed closely by "The Very Thought of You," "Till We Meet Again" and "Kismet." Almost equally strong were "Bowery to Broadway," "Something for the Boys," "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" and "Lost in a Harem."

Other pictures in the top-grossing bracket during the month were "Abroad With Two Yanks," "The Song of Bernadette," "Music in Manhattan," "Marriage Is a Private Affair," "None But the Lonely Heart," "Together Again," "Rainbow Island," "San Diego, I Love You," "Heavenly Days," "The Princess and the Pirate," "The House of Frankenstein," "Can't Help Singing" and "Winged Victory."

Composite key first-run box office reports for 1944, compared with the corresponding weeks of 1943, follow:

1944 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 7-8	117	2,417,700	20,664
Jan. 14-15	134	2,040,700	15,229
Jan. 21-22	149	2,311,400	15,513
Jan. 28-29	147	2,365,200	16,090
Feb. 4-5	153	2,512,200	16,419
Feb. 11-12	137	2,220,000	16,211
Feb. 18-19	155	2,459,800	15,870
Feb. 25-26	161	2,760,100	17,144
March 3-4	147	2,397,100	16,307
March 10-11	147	2,463,400	16,758
March 17-18	153	2,661,100	18,761
March 24-25	150	2,487,700	16,585
Mar. 31-Apr. 1	152	3,025,000	13,329
April 7-8	153	2,340,600	15,298
April 14-15	143	2,506,800	17,530
April 21-22	148	2,564,200	17,326
April 28-29	130	2,090,900	16,084
May 5-6	143	2,238,700	15,655
May 12-13	146	2,338,700	16,018
May 19-20	162	2,417,000	14,926
May 26-27	155	2,349,400	15,157
June 2-3	143	2,242,500	15,683
June 9-10	141	1,938,000	13,752
June 16-17	135	1,934,400	14,322
June 23-24	136	2,002,800	14,726
June 30-July 1	126	2,178,300	17,288
July 7-8	145	2,490,900	17,178
July 14-15	144	2,228,500	15,478
July 21-22	148	2,321,400	15,685
July 28-29	135	2,245,400	16,632
Aug. 4-5	141	2,324,500	15,777
Aug. 11-12	148	2,355,200	15,913
Aug. 18-19	153	2,514,100	16,433
Aug. 25-26	141	2,516,800	17,850
Sept. 1-2	127	2,313,600	18,217
Sept. 8-9	144	2,703,600	18,775
Sept. 15-16	158	2,638,200	16,697
Sept. 22-23	146	2,505,900	17,164
Sept. 29-30	156	2,640,700	16,927
Oct. 6-7	136	2,411,500	17,732
Oct. 13-14	152	2,457,200	16,165
Oct. 20-21	157	2,641,300	16,824
Oct. 27-28	145	2,450,900	16,902
Nov. 3-4	139	2,322,400	16,708
Nov. 10-11	140	2,246,900	16,049
Nov. 17-18	145	2,285,300	15,761
Nov. 24-25	150	2,471,600	16,477
Dec. 1-2	132	2,441,200	18,494
Dec. 8-9	129	2,008,300	15,569
Dec. 15-16	135	2,068,700	15,324
Dec. 22-23	132	1,883,400	14,268
Dec. 29-30	112	1,939,000	(a)17,313
GRAND AVERAGES	143	(Total Gross: $122,690,200)	$15,200

1943 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 8-9	154	2,424,300	15,742
Jan. 15-16	149	1,830,500	12,285
Jan. 21-22	127	1,448,600	12,981
Jan. 29-30	127	1,789,500	14,091
Feb. 5-6	126	1,743,000	13,040
Feb. 12-13	132	1,919,000	14,588
Feb. 19-20	139	1,885,900	13,568
Feb. 26-27	149	2,005,200	13,458
March 5-6	142	1,933,400	13,615
March 12-13	151	1,944,600	12,878
March 19-20	143	1,968,300	13,764
March 26-27	147	1,938,200	13,185
April 2-3	123	1,785,800	14,519
April 9-10	147	2,029,100	13,803
April 16-17	147	1,868,500	12,711
April 23-24	158	2,006,200	12,634
Apr. 30-May 1	154	2,284,200	14,184
May 7-8	161	2,168,400	13,468
May 14-15	161	2,053,700	18,967
May 21-22	158	2,096,200	13,267
May 28-29	155	2,036,600	13,139
June 4-5	169	2,289,700	13,548
June 11-12	166	1,865,873	11,240
June 18-19	163	1,961,600	12,034
June 25-26	168	2,125,300	12,650
July 2-3	164	2,133,800	13,010
July 9-10	153	2,433,700	15,906
July 16-17	151	2,109,400	13,970
July 23-24	155	2,185,100	14,097
July 30-31	164	2,347,900	14,316
Aug. 6-7	138	2,032,400	14,727
Aug. 13-14	166	2,302,200	13,869
Aug. 20-21	153	2,341,600	15,304
Aug. 27-28	175	2,681,500	15,322
Sept. 3-4	163	2,559,900	15,705
Sept. 10-11	168	2,926,000	17,417
Sept. 17-18	165	2,456,300	14,887
Sept. 24-25	175	2,588,200	14,790
Oct. 1-2	166	2,473,800	14,902
Oct. 8-9	173	2,595,800	15,005
Oct. 15-16	167	2,544,600	15,237
Oct. 22-23	163	2,479,000	15,209
Oct. 29-30	179	2,608,800	14,574
Nov. 5-6	170	2,393,200	14,078
Nov. 12-13	166	2,467,100	14,862
Nov. 19-20	132	2,134,500	16,163
Nov. 26-27	145	2,259,600	15,583
Dec. 3-4	138	2,333,900	16,912
Dec. 10-11	151	2,221,900	14,714
Dec. 17-18	150	2,061,600	13,744
Dec. 24-25	135	1,743,100	12,912
Dec. 31	135	2,213,500	(b)16,396
GRAND AVERAGES	153	(Total Gross: $113,029,994)	$14,170

(a)—Does not include heavy New Year's Eve business.
(b)—Includes heavy New Year's Eve business.

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Krenitz to WAC Post

CLEVELAND, Jan. 22.—Joe Krenitz Universal branch manager here, has succeeded Morrison Orr, United Artists branch manager, as War Activities Committee distributor chairman for Northern Ohio.

Jordan Joins Monogram

ATLANTA, Jan. 22.—Hal Jordan, for the past 20 years with 20th Century-Fox in Charlotte, has joined the Monogram Southern exchanges sales force, covering Alabama and Tennessee.

ASCAP Held Not a Florida Monopoly

Special Master James Messer, Jr. of Florida, has ruled that the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers "does not constitute an unlawful monopoly or combination operating in restraint of trade or in violation of the statutes of Florida and is legally qualified and entitled to operate within the state," the Society announced here yesterday.

ASCAP was one of three original defendants in a suit brought by Florida Attorney General J. Tom Watson, charging infringement of the Florida statute. Last March 20, Louis D. Frohlich of ASCAP general counsel, won separate trial for the society, and the ASCAP case was then tried last July in New York.

Benoit Westinghouse Radio Vice-President

Walter E. Benoit has been elected vice-president of Westinghouse Radio Stations, Inc., Walter Evans, vice-president of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company and head of the broadcasting subsidiary, announced yesterday.

Benoit will take over executive duties for all Westinghouse standard band and short-wave broadcasting facilities, while continuing as assistant to the vice-president of the radio and X-ray divisions. He will maintain headquarters in Baltimore.

Two in Year Rejected By Chicago Censors

CHICAGO, Jan. 22.—Only two films of the 1,086 screened were rejected by the local censor board in 1944. Cuts totalled 104, and 13 productions were given adult classification.

During December, the board passed on 97 pictures, a record number. Only two, "The Mummy's Curse" and "The House of Frankenstein," were given adult classification. For the fifth consecutive month, all were approved.

'Fighting Lady' at Cinema Lodge Meet

A special screening of "The Fighting Lady," Navy documentary being released by 20th Century-Fox, will be held at the meeting of Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith at the Hotel Edison here tonight.

Samuel Rinzler will be honored at the meeting to which industry executives have been invited.

Roy Mack Appointed New USO Coast Head

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—Abe Lastvogel, president of USO-Camp Shows, Inc., has appointed Roy Mack as successor to Ed Lowry, in charge of the West Coast branch of USO Camp-Shows.

Mack, who was formerly Lowry's assistant, will take over on Feb. 1.

Plan Sparta Theatre

SPARTA, Ga., Jan. 22.—Col. Marvin Peck, owner of the Pex Theatre, has announced that he will build a new theatre here as soon as materials are available. Application for approval has been made to the War Production Board.

'Fighting Lady' in Lead at N.Y. Houses By Record $37,000

(Continued from page 1)

pected for the week at this 720-seat house. Previous high there was $26,-400, for "The Sign of the Cross." Also doing outstanding business is the Rank-UA "Mr. Emmanuel," at the Gotham, where receipts for the third week are expected to reach $17,000 to equal the gross of the initial week.

"Tomorrow the World" is also showing exceptionally fine holding power at the Globe with the fifth week's gross expected to hit $15,000, beating both the fourth and third weeks. "The Keys of the Kingdom" is expected to bring a subsatntial $41,000 for its fourth week at the Rivoli, a healthy upswing from the third week's $34,500. "Here Come the Waves" and a stage show with Woody Herman and his band, and Buddy Lester, at the Paramount, continues to lead holdovers with a good $70,000 expected for the fourth week, equaling the third week; the combination is set for six weeks.

$96,000 for 'Velvet'

"National Velvet" and a Radio City Music Hall stage show are headed for a good $96,000 for a sixth and final week, on the basis of $64,500 recorded in the first four days. "A Song to Remember" will open at the Hall on Thursday. A satisfactory $62,000 is expected for the fourth and final week of "Winged Victory" and a stage show at the Roxy; "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier" and a stage show featuring Bill Robinson, Maurice Rocco, the Delta Rhythm Boys and Louis Armstrong and his band will open there tomorrow.

"Hollywood Canteen" and a stage presentation is expected to give the Strand a moderate $39,000 for a sixth and final week; "Objective Burma" and a stage show featuring Artie Shaw and his band will open there Friday. A profitable fifth and final week's gross of $60,000 is expected for "Music for Millions" and a show at the Capitol, on the basis of $40,000 recorded for the first four days; "The Thin Man Goes Home" and a stage show with Frankie Carle and his band will open there Thursday.

Others Improve

Other theatres are also doing better business than last week. The Criterion recorded $28,500 for a fourth week of "Can't Help Singing"; it is holding for a fifth week, with "The Climax" expected to follow. The Astor counted $30,000 for the eighth week of "Meet Me in St. Louis"; the film is set to run until Feb. 4. "To Have and Have Not" is headed for $19,000 for its 15th week at the Hollywood; it will hold one more week, with "Roughly Speaking" set to follow on Jan. 31.

A substantial $17,000 is expected for the fourth and final week of "Experiment Perilous" at the Palace; "The Woman in the Window" will open there Thursday. A profitable first week of $10,000 is expected for "The Man in Half Moon Street," at the Rialto, and the film will hold. "The Great Flamarion" is headed for a poor $4,000 for its second and final week at the Republic, and "On Approval," J. Arthur Rank film being released here by English Films, will open there Saturday.

Review

"The Great Flamarion"

(Republic)

"THE GREAT FLAMARION" is tailor-made for stiff-necked Erich Von Stroheim, who broods his way through a good portion of the film until inflamed by Mary Beth Hughes, and then he shares his affections between Miss Hughes and his set of guns. Von Stroheim portrays a vaudeville star with a sharp-shooting specialty who lives only for his art: Miss Hughes is a scheming little vixen ready to discard her drunken husband, Dan Duryea, and prevails on Von Stroheim to shoot Duryea while that worthy is performing as a stooge in the act. A coroner acquits Von Stroheim, ascribing the "accident" to Duryea's intoxication. When Miss Hughes does not keep a rendezvous with Von Stroheim, he seeks her out and strangles her before dying in turn from a wound inflicted by Miss Hughes.

The film, with an air of contrivance about it, sustains mild interest without becoming absorbing. Anthony Mann's direction is sufficient for the material at hand; the screenplay was by Anne Wigton, Heinz Herald and Richard Weil, from Miss Wigton's story based on a character, "Big Shot," by Vicki Baum. Producer William Wilder also cast Stephen Barclay, Lester Allen, Esther Howard, Michael Mark, Joseph Granby, John R. Hamilton. Fred Velasco, Carmen Lopez and Tony Ferrell do several turns with a Latin flavor. Faith Watson and Lester Allen wrote two musical numbers: "Chita" and "Lights of Broadway," respectively.

Running time, 78 minutes. "G."* Release date, not set.

CHARLES RYWECK

*"G" denotes general classification.

$1-a-Reel Tax Is Proposed for Iowa

DES MOINES, Jan. 22.—Harvey Long (Rep., Clinton, Ia.) has prepared for filing in the state assembly a bill to charge film distributors an annual license fee of $1,000, plus $1 for every reel sent into the state "for use where an admission fee is charged." The yield would go to the Iowa state old age assistance fund, Long said. The state tax commission would collect the tax.

The film industry, under the proposal, would not be permitted to pass on the tax in the form of higher admission charges.

Para. Sets 'Bell' in 50 Spots for Feb. 22

"For Whom the Bell Tolls" will be given Washington's Birthday week openings in 50 key centers, to launch a regular-admission release, according to Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution.

An extensive campaign, stressing the regular admissions, has been put in work under direction of R. M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director, following the two-day advertising-exploitation meeting here, on the film, late last week, at which circuit advertising-publicity heads presented ideas.

Murray Conspiracy Suit to Jury Today

CHICAGO, Jan. 22.—Closing arguments of counsel in the Thomas Murray $1,000,000 conspiracy suit against the distributors and Balaban and Katz in Federal Court here, will start today. Case is expected to go to the jury before the end of the day.

Final witnesses heard today were plaintiff Murray and his son, Lester, who checked gross receipts of pictures played in the Thalia Theatre, which they formerly operated. Henri Elman, PRC exchange owner and one of the defendants, was excused from attending the trial because of ill health. He is now in California.

Stock Cuts Seen Sparing Newsreels

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—Newsreels will take little, and maybe none, of the cut in raw stock allocations now being worked out for the current quarter and to be disclosed to the industry advisory committee at its meeting with War Production Board officials here next week, it was learned today.

Rumors which have been current that the newsreels would have to take a substantial cut were branded unfounded, and while officials could not say definitely what the final outcome of present calculations would be, they indicated that the special circumstances under which the newsreels operate will render a small curtailment of raw stock impracticable.

It is possible that instead of being given a cut, the companies will be asked to save every foot of film possible and turn back any they do not absolutely need. It was suggested that this would be a lot easier than to attempt to work out any new formula for length of reel, number of prints, etc., which would be required for application of a percentage cut.

Only One Objection On Banned Short

TORONTO, Jan. 22.—Following withdrawal by the Canadian Government of National Film Board's "Balkan Powder Keg," United Artists distributing, because of 'international factors' involved, O. J. Silverthorne, chairman of the Ontario board of censors, said he received only one complaint from the public while the picture was playing the Toronto uptown and he had called back the short for second viewing but passed it again without further revision.

Originally there had been some deletions by Ontario censors but he did not explain what these scenes were. To his mind the subject was "innocuous." But, Silverthorne said further, "it was just a conglomeration of old news reels" and that "practically all news reels are controversial."

No Raw Stock Improvement

(Continued from page 1)

use of raw stock by Government agencies and other groups, indicated that he has not found any means of making any substantial amount of additional raw stock available to the industry during the current quarter which promises to see the industry's allotments cut by 27,000,000 feet.

The WPB is still working on allocations for individual companies and newsreels, Schaefer said. These are expected to be ready when the industry's advisory committee goes to Washington for a meeting with WPB officials on Feb. 1.

Indications are, Schaefer said, that the newsreels will be cut to about 700 feet per issue from the present 750 feet. This would save an estimated 3,400,000 feet for the quarter instead of the 9,000,000 cut originally suggested by the WPB. The difference, however, would have to be made up by cutting more than the original 18,-000,000 feet from feature releases, Schaefer pointed out.

Method Not Set

The outlook for an increase in raw stock production, which would make more film available to the industry is also slim, it was pointed out. Still to be determined is the method which the WPB will utilize in levying the cut against individual companies. Originally suggested when the industry's advisory committee met with WPB officials, several weeks ago, was a method which would cut the allocations of each of the large companies by some 2,500,000 feet and the smaller companies by about 1,000,000 feet, rather than by the previous method wherein the companies in the best position to sustain cuts received the largest curtailment. Original estimates for individual companies might go even higher, it is said, if a part of the proposed newsreel cut is transferred to feature release stock curtailments.

Turner in New Blue Post

John Coburn Turner has been appointed to head a new program promotion division of the program department of the Blue Network, according to an announcement by Hubbell Robinson, Jr., vice-president of programs and production.

United Renews Altec

United Detroit Theatres Corp, has renewed its agreement with Altec for the servicing of the circuit's 21 Detroit theatres.

Watch U. A. releases bearing G.C.F. Presents

Production on Coast Jumps To 40 Filming

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 22.—Production improved, with eight features completed and work started on 11 others. The shooting index hit 40. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Started: "Kiss and Tell," with Shirley Temple, Virginia Welles, Walter Abel, Katherine Alexander, Porter Hall, Edgar Buchanan.

Shooting: "Over 21," "Ten Cents a Dance," "The Fighting Guardsman," "A Thousand and One Nights."

M-G-M

Shooting: "Yolanda and the Thief," "The Harvey Girls," "Her Highness and the Bellboy," "Weekend at the Waldorf."

Monogram

Started: "The Robot Murder," with Sidney Toler, Benson Fong, Mantan Moreland, Helen Devereaux.

Shooting: "Stranger from Santa Fe," "Docks of New York."

Paramount

Shooting: "Masquerade in Mexico," "Good Intentions," "Too Good to Be True."

PRC

Finished: "Gangster's Den" (formerly "Untitled Buster Crabbe"), "The Phantom of 42nd Street."

Started: "Enemy of the Law," with Tex Ritter, Dave O'Brien, Guy Wilkerson, Kay Hughes.

Shooting: "Enchanted Forest."

RKO Radio

Shooting: "Those Endearing Young Charms," "Johnny Angel," "The Spanish Main," "Invisible Army," "Along Came Jones" (International).

Republic

Finished: "The Fatal Witness," "Road to Alcatraz."

Started: "Bells of Rosarita," with Roy Rogers, George "Gabby" Hayes, Dale Evans, Adele Mara, Sons of the Pioneers, Robert Mitchell Boy Choir.

Shooting: "New Faces of 1945," "Return at Dawn."

20th Century-Fox

Started: "Two-Faced Quilligan," with William Bendix, Joan Blondell, Phil Silvers, Anne Revere, Mary Treen, B. S. Pully, John Russell, Roy Roberts, Rene Carson; "The Dolly Sisters," with Betty Grable, John Payne, June Haver, S. Z. Sakall, Frank Latimore, Trudy Marshall, Gene Sheldon, Ricki Van Dusen, Evon Thomas, Donna Jo Gribble.

Shooting: "State Fair," "Colonel Effingham's Raid," "A Bell for Adano," "Captain Eddie."

United Artists

Finished: "Story of G.I. Joe" (Cowan).

Started: "Captain Kidd" (Bogeaus).

Shooting: "Paris — Underground" (Bennett): "Guest Wife" (Skirball-Manning).

Universal

Finished: "Senorita from the West.

Started: "The Naughty Nineties," with Abbott and Costello, Alan Curtis, Lois Collier, Rita Johnson, Henry Travers, Joe Sawyer, Sam McDaniel, Mantan Moreland; "Invitation to Death," with Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce, Hillary Brooks, Henry Daniell, Sally Shepherd, Mathew Bolton, Eva Amber; "Lady on a Train," with Deanna Durbin, Ralph Bellamy, David Bruce, Edward Everett Horton, Dan Duryea, Allen Jenkins.

Shooting: "That's the Spirit," "A Night in Paradise."

Warners

Finished: "Hotel Berlin," "The Big Sleep."

Shooting: "Three Strangers," "Mildred Pierce."

Independent

Started: "Ten Little Indians" (Popular Pictures), with Barry Fitzgerald, Walter Huston, Louis Hayward, Roland Young, June Duprez, Sir Aubrey Smith, Judith Anderson, Mischa Auer, Richard Haydn, Queenie Leonard.

Teeth in N. Y. Code Through New Law

(*Continued from page* 1)

even be introduced before the completion of consideration of the code by the advisory committee.

Setting new legislation to enforce the provisions of the code, it is pointed out, would not make it necessary for the State Labor Department to bring violators to court, but would provide for the punishment for violations as they are uncovered.

Indications are that there will be no harsh provisions in the new code as they affect existing theatres and that those affecting new theatre construction are reasonable, it is pointed out. Discussions at meetings of the Labor Department's advisory committee, which includes Henry Anderson, Paramount; Martin J. Tracey, Century Circuit; Theodore Junge, alternate for Harry Moskowitz, of Loew's, and Glen H. Humphrey of projectionists Local No. 337, now center around seating arrangements and theatre curtains. The next meeting will be held Feb. 2.

Two More Meetings

Estimates now are that two more meetings will be necessary on rules for existing structures and two additional meetings on provisions for new construction. The committee has been meeting every two weeks and indications are that it will complete consideration of the code by mid-March. It will then go to Edward Corsi, State Industrial Commissioner, and public hearings will probably be held.

Loew's New England Managers Hold Meet

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 22.—A managers' meeting of all theatres of Loew's Poli-New England Theatres, Inc., has been held here with Harry Shaw, divisional manager, presiding. New dimout regulations, general operations, maintenance and publicity, were discussed. Also attending were: Lou Brown, publicity director of Loew's Poli Theatres, and Bert McKenzie, M-G-M exploitation manager for New England territory.

Second prize in M-G-M's "American Romance" Contest was awarded to Louis Cohen and Lou Brown. Presentation of $150 in bonds was made by M. Goldstein, M-G-M branch manager, and McKenzie.

Selznick, Saphier Agencies Merged

(*Continued from page* 1)

agencies, operating from the Myron Selznick Building in Beverly Hills and the Selznick offices in New York. Saphier said more employes would be added and that expansion plans would be announced shortly. Also prominently identified with the company's activities will be Lester W. Roth, attorney for the estate.

Monica McCall, head of the Selznick New York office, will continue in charge of the joint enterprise there, while Bruce Powell will remain chief of that branch's radio department. Substantially all executives and personnel will remain in their present posts.

Two New Agents

Saphier said he would announce shortly the association with the company of two well-known agents who were among Selznick's principal lieutenants in the founding and building of his enterprise. James Doane, an associate of Saphier, will move into the new set-up with his 'package' radio show, "The Mayor of the Town," starring Lionel Barrymore. Fizdale, public relations and publicity specialist, will be general manager of the new organization.

Although Myron Selznick, Ltd., of London is not included in the merger, Saphier and the executors stated that a working arrangement is practically completed whereby the two groups will collaborate in an interchange of clients and in developing the international phase of their activities.

The Saphier agency, which has operated for 14 years, primarily in the radio field, now packages and represents the Bob Hope Pepsodent program, the Herbert Marshall Lockheed show, "The Saint," for Bromo Seltzer, "Corliss Archer" and others.

Joe Lee Named 20th Manager in Detroit

Joe J. Lee, former branch manager of 20th-Fox in New York, has been appointed branch manager in Detroit for that company. Lee entered the industry in 1911, touring with the Joe Lee Stock Company, and talking behind screens in theatres as an off-screen voice which accompanied silent films.

He then spent several years in the independent field, selling and producing. In 1915 he joined Famous Players as salesman for New Jersey, leaving in 1924 to join Fox, where he continued as New Jersey sales manager. He became sales manager for New York in 1932.

Red Cross Meeting Today

Plans for the cooperation of the radio industry in the 1945 Red Cross War Fund Drive, will be discussed at a luncheon today at the Waldorf-Astoria. James E. Sauter, head of the United Theatrical War Activities Committee, and radio chairman, will preside.

Morton Downey Returns

Morton Downey will be interviewed today at the USO-Camp Shows offices, following his return from an overseas tour of the European theatre.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Jan. 22

NUNNALLY JOHNSON will write and produce "Ashenden, British Agent" as his next International picture. The Somerset Maugham novel was purchased recently by William Goetz. . . . Joseph Cotten will be co-starred with Ingrid Bergman in David O. Selznick's forthcoming "The Scarlet Lily." . . . Dan Duryea has been signed by Universal for "Lady on a Train."

•

Arthur Shields, Barry Fitzgerald's brother, has signed a Warner contract. . . . Byron Barr will play the heavy in "Follow that Woman," next Pine-Thomas picture for Paramount. . . . Republic has exercised its option on services of Bobby Blake and Alice Fleming, both well-known to "Red Ryder" fans.

•

Ruth Hussey and Adolphe Menjou will have top comedy roles in RKO's "Man Alive." . . . Dorothy Dayton, the dancer, has been signed by Paramount. . . . Dolores Moran has been assigned the second feminine lead in Warners' "Too Young to Know," which will star Joan Leslie and Robert Hutton. . . . Columbia will continue its "Boston Blackie" series for at least two more years, and has signed Frank Sully to be a permanent member of the troupe, in support of Chester Morris.

•

Margaret O'Brien will be starred in "The Face of Heaven," being written for M-G-M by Robert Nathan.

Montague Presides At Columbia Meet

(*Continued from page* 1)

gers, as well as Canadian representatives, at which the handling and treatment to be given the production will be discussed, A. Montague, general sales manager, who will preside, announced here yesterday.

The delegates will see "A Song to Remember" at Radio City Music Hall premiere, on Thursday. Although prints of "A Song to Remember," which is being sold apart from the program, have been in exchanges since last September, it has not been screened for either members of the sales force or exhibitors. The film will not be available for other showings until after the New York premiere, when delegates will have returned to their territories and made necessary arrangements.

New York Police to Enforce 'Brownout'

(*Continued from page* 1)

director of the Office of War Utilities, conferred with the Mayor in New York last week and also met with Police Commissioner L. A. Valentine and representatives of the Consolidated Edison Co. to discuss details of the city's enforcement program.

Final plans for use of the police to insure that exhibitors, merchants and advertisers comply with the dimout order will be made at further conferences to be held within the next few days, it was said.

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 17 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1945 TEN CENTS

DO NOT REMOVE FROM LIBRARY

Suggest WPB Ban Raw Stock For Reissues

Idea May Be Discussed At Industry Meet Feb. 1

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—Suggestions that the use of raw stock for reissues be banned so long as the present tight film situation continues have been submitted to the War Production Board by industry sources.

Whether such a ban will be imposed when the first-quarter allocations are decided, next week, has not been determined, it is understood, and the subject may be brought up for discussion at the meeting of the industry advisory committee on Feb. 1.

The question of reissues is said to have arguments on both sides which must be considered. It is admitted that in putting out reissues a company saves production footage, but against this, it is feared by some officials, that any producing company might sell old pictures to an independent distributor, who then would want footage for its release over-running his quota.

WPB Insists on No Theatre Closings

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—The theatre equipment division of the War Production Board will continue its policy of permitting adequate equipment to be manufactured to prevent the closing of any theatre for the lack of equipment, a WPB spokesman said here today.

Applications for equipment are being scrutinized very closely to insure that it is installed only in a theatre

(*Continued on page* 12)

Studios Ask NLRB to Clarify an 'Extra'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 23.—Stewart Meacham, Regional Labor Relations Board representative here, reveals here that the studios have petitioned the National Labor Relations Board at Washington for a clarification of the certification given the Screen Players Union, as bargaining agent for extra-players performing bits, stunts and parts.

The producers are in the middle of

(*Continued on page* 12)

Demands 'Acreage' For All Standees

Baltimore, Jan. 23.—Theatre owners here are organizing to fight a proposed ordinance introduced in the City Council requiring theatres and other public places of assembly to allow a minimum of ten square feet for each person standing. Mayor Theodore McKeldin introduced the measure. Standing room now is less than four square feet.

'Dimes' Starts Tomorrow

The March of Dimes drive in 700 theatres in Metropolitan New York, and in 14,000 theatres nationally, will be launched tomorrow. A giant demonstration in Times Square, New York, at noon, will be followed by a parade of miltiary bands and uniformed members of various auxiliary war services. Addresses by Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, and Harry Brandt of the industry's drive executive committee, will precede the appearance of stars of screen, stage and radio. Among those scheduled to appear are: Luise Rainer, Marilyn Maxwell, Johnnie Johnston, Martha Scott, Mady Christians, Tommy Dix, Neil Hamilton, Paul Lukas, James Ellison, Skeets Gallagher, Jane Withers, Louis Calhern, Oscar Homolka, Frank Fay, Florence Rice, John Boles, Margo, Michael O'Shea, Jean Hersholt, Lee Bowman, Fay

(*Continued on page* 5)

FP-C Marks 25 Years

TORONTO, Jan. 23.—Marking the 25th anniversary of Famous Players-Canadian, representatives of Paramount and FP-C met in the Royal York Hotel here tonight to honor 27 charter members of a new '25-Year Club.'

J. J. Fitzgibbons

Adolph Zukor, Paramount board chairman, and Austin C. Keough, vice-president and general counsel, were among the guest speakers here from New York. J. J. Fitzgibbons was toastmaster and pre-

(*Continued on page* 6)

Academy Lists 137 Award Potentials

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 23.—Combining individual lists of eligible pictures supplied by the studios as containing those which, in their opinion, rate nomination for awards, the Academy of M. P. Arts and Sciences has supplied the following reminder list of 137 productions to the 9,150 members of the Academy, the Screen Actors Guild and the Screen Directors Guild with invitation to select five for placement on the ballot in the forthcoming

(*Continued on page* 12)

Myers Warns Of Decline In Attendance

Foresees No Relief for Theatres on Manpower

COLUMBUS, Jan. 23.—Warning that current conditions point to a decline in theatre attendance, Abram F. Myers, chairman and general counsel of Allied States, declares in his annual report to be presented to a meeting of Allied directors at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel here tomorrow that, "Only by extraordinary efforts can exhibitors maintain, much less increase, the volume of their business."

Factors named by Myers as likely to contribute to a decline in attendance are: further inductions and population shifts, extended engagements in prior

(*Continued on page* 6)

Studio Strike Put Off by WLB Move

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 23.—A studio strike by Screen Set Decorators Local 1421 today appeared averted by receipt from the War Labor Board of a telegram notifying the union that an arbitrator in its jurisdictional dispute with the IATSE is being selected and will be named in a few days. A union spokesman told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that this puts off the strike possibly at least a week.

Arthur to Insist on Decree Intervention

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 23.—Harry Arthur, Jr., general manager of Fanchon and Marco in St. Louis, disclosed here today that his St. Louis Amusement Co. has decided definitely to appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court from the denial of the company's plea to intervene in

(*Continued on page* 11)

'A Tree Grows in Brooklyn'

(*20th Century-Fox*)

THE screen version of the widely sold, read and discussed novel, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," is another addition to that ever-increasing group of films which, in vital respects, are better than the works upon which they are based. It retains the essential realism of the Betty Smith novel, while discarding much that was gross and sordid therein. Because it is more compact, it has greater impact. It says all that the novelist had to say, and saying it expertly in the more graphic medium, it says it more forcefully. It follows, therefore, that the novel having been a best-seller among readers, this superior screen version is destined to be a proportionately greater attraction among film-goers.

The screen play, by Tess Slesinger and Frank Davis, eloquently re-states the fundamentals of the novel. There is the poverty of the city tenement and the spiritual desert of city pavements and grimy rooftops where the people of this story live out their lives. But in this starved soil, human love and aspiration take root and grow as inexplicably as

(*Continued on page* 14)

Also Reviewed Today

In addition to the review of "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn", appearing in adjoining columns, a review of "Tahiti Nights" appears on page 14.

Personal Mention

ARTHUR SILVERSTONE of 20th Century-Fox's international department, returned from London yesterday for home office conferences which will keep him in the U. S. for an indefinite period.

•

MILT YOUNG of the Warner Theatres advertising and promotion department in Philadelphia has returned to his office after a brief hospital confinement.

•

HARRY MAYER, head talent booker for Warner Theatres, and MRS. MAYER are the parents of a daughter born Friday at Beth David Hospital.

•

H. J. SCHAD, head of Schad Theatres, Reading, Pa., has been reelected to the board of directors of the Berks County Agricultural Association.

•

HARRY GOLD, United Artists Eastern sales manager, is expected at the home office today following meetings in Boston and Cleveland.

•

BUDD ROGERS, a member of Universal's board of directors, and MRS. ROGERS will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary Saturday.

•

LOU KROUSE, secretary-treasurer of the I.A.T.S.E. and head of Local 307 in Philadelphia, is convalescing there from a recent illness.

•

JAMES REIMEL, former Warner booker in Philadelphia, and MRS. REIMEL are the parents of a son, JAMES, JR., born last week.

•

RICHARD F. WALSH, I.A.T.S.E. president, was in Philadelphia yesterday.

•

G. L. CARRINGTON, president of Altec Service Corp., has arrived from Hollywood.

Appeal Board Order To Court This Week

The American Arbitration Association will submit this week to Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard, here, an order, based on the signed stipulations of the consenting companies, for an extension of the terms of the arbitration appeal board for one year. The Department of Justice has also approved the extension.

Captain Ameno Killed

Official notice was received Monday by Mrs. Laura Halle Ameno, daughter of the Postmaster General and Mrs. Frank C. Walker, of the death in action of her husband, Captain Robert L. Ameno in Belgium on Dec. 30. Captain Ameno was a company commander in the 11th American Armored Division.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, Jan. 23

WHEN he addressed members of the California Theatre Council, his statistics on bond sales were off the record. When he addressed the annual meeting of the Hollywood division of the War Activities Committee, some of the same statistics went on the record.

Then, Ted R. Gamble, director of the War Finance Division of the Treasury Department, revealed the Treasury had borrowed $157,000,000,000 from May, 1941, up to, but not including the Sixth Loan. Of that astronomical sum, $38,000,000,000 came from about 85,000,000 individuals, averaging nine bonds per person. While the figures on redeemed bonds must be kept under the rose, it is permissible to report their total is unimportantly small when compared with overall sales.

Gratifying and well-deserved are these words from Gamble: "The job that has been done would have been utterly impossible without the aid of the motion picture industry. Soon, as we approach peace, movies must help to keep the people advised of inflationary dangers."

Thus, there shapes up part of the pattern of the industry's usefulness in the period ahead.

■

This same meeting heard highlight figures from the report of Jack Alicoate, chairman of WAC's trade press division. To date, 12 publications have contributed 833 pages of advertising, representing $272,934 in paid space, and 13,554 columns of news.

The trade press also serves.

■ ■

Hugh Harman has interesting maneuvers afoot. Like other cartoon producers in Hollywood, various types of instructional and technical shorts for the war establishments have pre-empted much of his time. The fact with him is he is now making his first non-Government short in two years and, at that, it's a dental hygiene film for the health department of the State of Tennessee. This year, he plans a pair of feature length subjects under a cartoon-live action formula which he calls "Animaction." One will be "King Arthur," and that suggests the fabled Round Table, and the other "Hollywood Merry-Go-Round."

Harman's long-view approach on the future:

"Visual educational films offer an unlimited field. Sales to foreign governments should be tremendous after the war and we intend to have representatives in many countries."

■ ■

Producer, evidencing enthusiasm over his new leading man:

"He's so easy to handle, it's a pleasure. Any old dressing room is good enough. He is always on the set on time. He never hogs scenes. He gets along with everyone. He's happily married, thinks his wife is the one woman in the world, has four fine sons.

"Besides, he brings me butter and eggs from his ranch."

■ ■

Old hat is one experience many New York executives go through on their studio visits. Switchboard operators will know the makers of the 'B's,' but they don't always know the instrumentalities of policy.

This situation finally caught up with Maurice Bergman, Universal's Eastern advertising director, the other morning. A call for him at the studio brought that inescapable:

"What does he do here?"

■ ■

Hedda Hopper, reporting RKO has signed Boris Karloff for three pictures in two years, also reported his "Body Snatcher" and "Isle of the Dead" are "paying big dividends."

It's a scoop. Neither picture has been released as yet.

■ ■

Futureless Future: "What are you working on?"

"Couple of stories."

"How are you doing?"

"Fine, fine. I'll make the shelf with them, right on schedule, too."

■ ■

Valley Note: How goes it with Republic? It goes like this:

Seven years ago, the company was grossing $90,000 a week. Now, it averages $300,000 every seven days.

■ ■

Studio Scene: Two producers meet in a corridor, get involved in a long and weighty discussion. Subject matter: Their ulcers.

■ ■

Hollywood Vignette: He starts his day with a mean look even when he feels well.

■ ■

Blackout: Empty stages make more decisions than sense.

Coming Events

Today—Ontario exhibitors meet to organize against new tax proposal, Toronto.

Jan. 24-25—National Allied board of directors meeting, Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus.

Jan. 25—Institute of Radio Engineers dinner, Hotel Commodore, New York.

Jan. 25-31—March of Dimes campaign in theatres.

Jan. 27-28—Film Classics franchise holders' meeting, Coronado Hotel, St. Louis.

Jan. 29—Paramount regional sales meeting, St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco.

Jan. 30—Paramount luncheon for exhibitors, Hotel St. Francis, San Francisco.

Feb. 1—Paramount regional sales meeting, Denver.

Feb. 2—Press Photographers Association dance and entertainment, Hotel Waldorf Astoria, New York.

Feb. 2—Paramount luncheon for exhibitors, Denver.

Feb. 5—Paramount regional sales meeting, Hotel Muehlebach, Kansas City.

Feb. 6—Paramount luncheon for exhibitors, Hotel Muehlebach, Kansas City.

Feb. 8—Paramount regional sales meeting Dallas.

Feb. 12—Paramount regional sales meeting, Chicago.

Feb. 14—Paramount regional sales meeting, Cleveland.

Feb. 20—Paramount regional sales meeting, New York.

March 8-9—Paramount regional sales meeting, Atlanta.

March 15—Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences annual awards, Hollywood.

Cinema Lodge Cites Exhibitor Rinzler

Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith paid tribute to Samuel Rinzler, New York pioneer exhibitor, at a meeting at the Hotel Edison, here, last night, attended by representatives of the film and allied industries in New York. Rinzler was presented with the Cinema 'Honor Scroll' for his efforts on behalf of industry's participation in various war drives and charitable undertakings, by Jack H. Levin.

Speakers who paid tribute to Rinzler, besides Levin, included Albert A. Senft, Cinema president, Harry Brandt and Emanuel Frisch, son of Louis Frisch, Rinzler's lifelong partner in the Randforce circuit. Rinzler inducted a large group of new members into Cinema following the scroll presentation.

Final portion of the program was given over to a screening of the U. S. Navy's documentary film, "The Fighting Lady."

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The Critics will give me 4 Barks at least! Bill and Myrna are also good. It's so exciting my hair curls.
THE THIN MAN GOES HOME
WILLIAM POWELL
MYRNA LOY
ASTA

Let's BEAT the so-and-so out of your house-records!
WILLIAM POWELL
MYRNA LOY
in
"THE THIN MAN GOES HOME"
with
LUCILE WATSON · GLORIA DeHAVEN
ANNE REVERE
HELEN VINSON · HARRY DAVENPORT
LEON AMES · DONALD MEEK · EDWARD BROPHY
Screen Play by Robert Riskin and Dwight Taylor
Based on the Characters Created by Dashiell Hammett
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture
Directed by RICHARD THORPE
Produced by EVERETT RISKIN
together again in
M-G-M's
riotous comedy
1924 1945
21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP
MGM
Keep Selling Bonds!
LITHO U.S.

Newspapers Ads Are Essential: Gillham

Continuing studies prove that there is no substitute for newspaper advertising in selling motion pictures to the public, and theatres, therefore, should make every effort to obtain the maximum newspaper space under present rationing conditions, states R. M. Gillham, Paramount advertising-publicity director.

"Continuing studies of newspaper readership conducted by the Advertising Research Foundation since 1938 show that filmgoers are accustomed to look at newspapers to find out what is playing," said Gillham, adding: "All surveys, moreover, prove the value of entertainment-page locations over other locations in papers.

"It is necessary to constantly keep reminding newspaper advertising departments that with the exception of department stores, motion picture theatres are their best customers and the most attractive from a readership standpoint. Theatre men will find that a persuasive argument," concluded Gillham.

Freeman, Reagan, Gillham on the Coast

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 23.—Y. Frank Freeman, Paramount production vice-president; Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of sales; Russell Holman, Eastern production head; Robert Gillham, advertising-publicity director, and John Byram, head of the New York play department, arrived here today from New York.

This is Reagan's first trip to the studio since his appointment as sales head nearly a year ago. The visiting sales executives will confer with Henry Ginsberg, studio head, and will view a number of completed films.

Ritchey Names Gates For South America

Norton V. Ritchey, vice-president and export manager of Monogram Pictures, here, yesterday announced the appointment of Bernard J. Gates as the company's special representative in Central and South America. Gates goes to Monogram from United Artists, his service in the foreign field dating back to 1928, when he became M-G-M's manager in Argentina. Later he held similar positions in Mexico, Central America and Puerto Rico.

Although for the time being, Gates will make his headquarters in New York, he plans to leave shortly on a tour of his territory.

Wallis' 1st for Para. In UK Set for June

Hal Wallis' first British production for Paramount, "Whenever I Remember," will get underway in June at either the Denham or Pinewood studios, according to David Rose, Paramount's managing director in England, now here. Wallis will endeavor to put a second film in production there soon after the first is launched, Rose said yesterday. Deborah Kerr, British star, is being sought for the role in the first film.

Rose will leave this week for London after more than a month here and on the Coast.

'Dimes' Drive Launching Is Set for Tomorrow

(*Continued from page* 1)

Wray, Carol Landis, Roscoe Karns and Michael Whalen.

President Roosevelt's 1941 Georgia auto license plate will be auctioned off to the highest "Dimes" donor.

Gus Van, vaudevillian, will be at the controls of a special March of Dimes trolley, with Jack Benny and "Rochester" as passengers.

A special accounting set-up has been put into effect by Harold J. Cleary of Loew's and William England of RKO Theatres, to obtain daily collection figures from the circuit's theatres.

Liberty Background For 'Dimes' Drive

The Statue of Liberty replica erected in Times Square for the Sixth War Loan Drive will serve as the "back-drop" for a huge birthday cake for the March of Dimes drive. The cake, being built by Jacob Starr of Artcraft-Strauss Sign Corp., on a non-profit basis, will be in place by the weekend and will stand 14 feet high and be eight feet in diameter at its base; and will have 62 candles, one for each anniversary of President Roosevelt's birthday.

Storm, White to Dimes Washington Reception

Gale Storm, Monogram star, will arrive in Washington on Jan. 29, from Hollywood, as one of the representatives of the industry invited to appear at the President's Birthday Ball and to take part in other activities being arranged in connection with the annual March of Dimes drive. Madeleine White, Monogram's eastern publicity representative, will leave New York Sunday for Washington to meet Miss Storm, and to act as her "official companion" while there, returning with her to New York on the 31st.

Raise Wisconsin 'Dimes' Goal to 75c a Seat

A minimum goal of 75 cents per seat in the March of Dimes drive has been set by state chairman Harold J. Fitzgerald for theatres of Wisconsin. Last year the per seat average was 37½ cents. "Although the national theatre campaign dates have been set for Jan. 25-31," said Fitzgerald, in a wire to national drive chairman Nicholas M. Schenck, "we are requesting each exhibitor in the state to extend collection dates to Feb. 4, allowing the showmen *two* Saturdays and *two* Sundays in which to utilize their showmanship ingenuity."

In Connecticut, 184 out of 185 theatres have signed pledges, reports Lou Brown of the publicity committee.

Para. Theatre 'Dimes' Headstart for $6,300

The New York Paramount Theatre has inaugurated its March of Dimes week in advance of the official start tomorrow, and R. M. Weitman, managing director, announced yesterday that in the first four days the theatre has collected $6,300.

UA Midwest Sales Meet Starts Today

LAND O'LAKES, Wisc., Jan. 23.—United Artists' Midwest sales meeting will get under way here tomorrow at King's Gateway Inn, with Rud Lohrenz, Chicago manager, presiding. Branch managers, salesmen, office managers and bookers from exchanges in Chicago, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and Minneapolis will attend.

The meeting will be devoted not only to a discussion of company product and policies, but also to an analysis of each individual branch's salesman's problems. A new expectancy figure for each individual account in the Midwest will be set up, which, it is hoped, will result in improved terms and distribution on future product. J. J. Unger, Western sales manager, will attend, and will also go to similar later meetings in St. Louis and San Francisco.

Mono. Has $50,000 'Frozen' in Africa

Monogram has accumulated upwards of 2,500,000 francs, some $50,000, from its operations in North Africa in a little over a year. These funds are presently frozen by the French Government, together with other distributors' blocked assets, estimated in some quarters, to amount to some $3,000,000. The franc is pegged currently at 50 francs to the dollar.

Columbia Sales Meet Will Open Today

Columbia's three-day sales meeting will get under way here today, at the Warwick Hotel, with 31 branch and seven district managers in attendance, as well as home office personnel. A. Montague, general sales manager, will preside.

The seven district managers attending are: Sam Galanty, Mid-East; Ben Marcus, Mid-West; Carl Shalit, Central; Jerry Saffron, Western; R. J. Ingram, South-Eastern; Jack Underwood, South-Western; Nat Cohn, New York.

Branch managers are: Joe Miller, Albany; R. J. Ingram, Atlanta; I. H. Rogovin, Boston; Phil Fox, Buffalo; George Roscoe, Charlotte; B. J. Lourie, Chicago; A. S. Moritz, Cincinnati; L. Zucker, Cleveland; J. B. Underwood, Dallas; R. C. Hill, Denver; M. H. Evidon, Des Moines; Joseph Gins, Detroit; W. Guy Craig, Indianapolis; Tom Baldwin, Kansas City; W. C. Ball, Los Angeles; J. J. Rogers, Memphis; O. J. Ruby, Milwaukee; J. J. Chapman, Minneapolis; T. F. O'Toole, New Haven; N. J. Cohn, New York; C. A. Gibbs, Oklahoma City; J. H. Jacobs, Omaha; H. E. Weiner, Philadelphia; A. H. Levy, Pittsburgh; J. R. Beale, Portland; W. G. Seig, Salt Lake City; L. E. Tillman, San Francisco; L. N. Walton, Seattle; C. D. Hill, St. Louis; Ben Caplon, Washington; H. Duvall, Louisiana.

Louis Rosenfeld will head the Canadian delegation.

Grainger Announces 4 More Promotions

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 23.—James R. Grainger, president and general sales manager of Republic, today announced four additional promotions to branch sales posts, at the closing session of the third and last in the series of sales conferences, held at the Hollywood studio.

The promotions, effective Feb. 12, follow: William Feld, former Des Moines branch manager, will become Chicago sales manager; William Weiss, former St. Louis salesman, will become St. Louis sales manager; B. C. Talley, former Atlanta salesman, becomes Atlanta manager; Dave Nelson, former St. Louis salesman, becomes manager in Des Moines. Nat E. Steinberg and N. J. Colquhoun, managers in St. Louis and Dallas, were promoted to posts of Prairie and Southwestern sales managers, respectively, at earlier sessions.

Attending the meeting were H. J. Yates, Sr., chairman of the board; Edward L. Walton, assistant general sales manager; Francis Bateman, Western sales manager; J. T. Sheffield, franchise holder; branch managers J. H. Sheffield, Portland; Gene Gerbase, Denver; Harold C. Fuller, Salt Lake City; L. W. Marriott, Los Angeles, and Sid Weisbaum, San Francisco; also, William Saal, executive assistant to Yates; Allen Wilson, studio vice-president; Walter L. Titus, Jr., executive assistant to Grainger; J. L. Kaufman, studio publicity head; Steve Edwards, New York publicity director, and Si Borus, home office contract department head.

Yates and Grainger will remain at the studio indefinitely.

'Depinet Drive' Meet At N. Y. Exchange

RKO's 1945 'Ned Depinet Sales Drive' received its New York send-off yesterday, when drive 'captain' Robert Folliard held a meeting at the exchange, here, after completing a 22-day tour of the U. S. and Canada. Attending were drive 'lieutenant' Harry Gittleson, Charles Boasberg, New York Metropolitan manager, Phil Hodes; John J. Dacey, E. T. Carroll, Lou Kutinsky, Charles Penser, Ann Levy, William Hartman, Jean Slade, Dorothy Post, Lillian Vallon, Herman Silverman, Harry Michalson, Mike Poller, William McShea, Irving Kane, Herb Wappaus, Harry Reiners, Rutgers Neilson, Jack Level and Bob Boehnel.

Today Folliard and Gittleson will hold the last meeting, in Philadelphia, for representatives of that city, Washington and Pittsburgh.

New Jersey Owners In Buying Combine

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 23.—Independent Theatres Service, booking-buying combine, has been launched here. For the present, only Southern New Jersey exhibitors will participate in the new combine, including theatres covered from both the New York and Philadelphia exchanges.

Scheuerman to Co-Op.

CLEVELAND, Jan. 23.—Fred Scheuerman, PRC office manager and city salesman here, has resigned to join Co-operative Theatres of Ohio.

FP-C Marks 25 Years

(Continued from page 1)

sented each member of the club, composed exclusively of employes of the staffs of original theatres in the circuit, with a jeweled lapel pin of membership, a certificate of appreciation and either an inscribed watch or a $100 war bond.

Fitzgibbons voiced the company's appreciation of the long service of the workers who have contributed to the growth of the company in 25 years from 18 theatres to more than 300.

Zukor spoke of the early days of Famous Players, from which the Canadian company took its name. Zukor was elected an honorary member of the 25-Year Club. Other speakers were: R. W. Bolstad, vice-president of FP-C; Mayor Saunders of Toronto and Norman S. Robertson, Toronto, a director. 'Teddy' Gee, oldest doorman in Canada, also spoke.

Sixteen millimeter sound films in color were taken of the charter members, and a sound track containing music and commentary will be added. This will be kept as a permanent record, and will be shown at 25-Year Club dinners to be held henceforth on Jan. 23 of each year.

Throughout Dominion

Famous Players is celebrating 'Anniversary Week' throughout the Dominion, with special film programs and campaigns. Radio salutes on the Canadian networks will mark the celebration.

Famous Players executives will hold a similar dinner in honor of ten Western members of the 25-Year Club, in Vancouver, on Jan. 30. R. W. Bolstad and James W. Nairn, advertising-publicity director, will attend the Vancouver dinner.

Mayor Robert Saunders spoke in behalf of the city of Toronto, offering high praise for FP-C in both national and local endeavors.

Elsewhere throughout Canada the celebration was proclaimed in special newspaper sections, editorial salutes, decorated theatres and anniversary week programs.

Canadian directors at the function included Fitzgibbons, vice-president R. W. Bolstad, secretary Noel Barrow, Norman S. Robertson and Angus MacCunn.

Countless wired greetings were received from trade executives in the United States and Canada, all paying tribute to "Fitz" and his associates.

Legion Classifies 8 New Productions

The National Legion of Decency has classified the following new films; A-1, "Nothing but Trouble," M-G-M; "Sagebrush Heroes," Columbia; "Shadows of Death," PRC; Class A-2, "I'll Be Seeing You," United Artists; "Mr. Emmanuel," GCF-United Artists; "The Mummy's Curse," Universal; "A Song to Remember," Columbia; "Thoroughbreds," Republic.

Strickland Appointed

ATLANTA, Jan. 23.—Robert Strickland of Strickland Film Co., has been appointed a member of the industrial film producers' advisory committee in Washington.

Myers Warns Exhibitors of Decline in Attendance

(Continued from page 1)

runs, rising living costs and restrictions on lighting.

The report urges exhibitors to exert to the fullest their talent for showmanship, and utilize to the fullest all exploitation and advertising media, pointing out that exhibitors who "put on the pressure now will gain the momentum to carry them over the rough places later on." The report cautions that film rentals must be kept "in check," and suggests the extension of cooperative buying to supplies and equipment. It warns, however, that cooperative film buying "in some instances may represent only the efforts of self-seeking promoters" and advises exhibitors to "retain a high degree of control over such organizations so that they will not develop into Frankenstein monsters."

Myers' report also warns that the already acute manpower situation "will be aggravated as more men are inducted into service and the dwindling supply of workers is diverted to essential industries."

"There is no present indication," it states, "that theatres will be given a higher essentiality rating."

Declaring, however, that there "is no cause for despair," the report holds that it is certain that theatres will fare better in essentiality ratings than other components of the amusement field. "There is no likelihood that they will be summarily dealt with as were the race tracks," Myers says.

"Another reassuring factor," the report continues, "is the tremendous vigor and resourcefulness of the industry in all its branches. In its history the industry has overcome many obstacles. There is no reason to suppose that this energy and ingenuity have been exhausted. Better teamwork among exhibitors and a better understanding with other branches will ease us over the rough spots."

Discussing taxes, Myers' report observes that continued war expenditures and the mounting public debt carry the threat of increased taxation, even though there is no present indication that a higher amusement tax rate will be sought. It reminds, however, that there was no advance notice of the Treasury's recommendations for a higher admission tax rate in 1943.

"A fair-minded view indicates that the admission tax now is as high as can be justified," the report states. It observes that when the subject of postwar taxation is taken up, "exhibitors undoubtedly will make a bid for repeal of this nuisance tax in its entirety, but the time is not now ripe."

Treasuries Brimming

State treasuries are "brimming" and, in consequence, there is not much likelihood of revenue measures directed at the industry developing within the states, Myers observes. Measures to permit municipalities to levy excise taxes should be watched, however, he warns.

The report reviews developments in the field of Federal litigation, including the consent decree. It observes, in discussing the latter, that the "provisions under which the industry must operate should be adapted to the needs of the industry as well as to the technical requirements of the law. It would be to the advantage of all concerned for the industry to enter the precarious reconversion period with practices and procedures stabilized. A decree in keeping with those proposals would promote harmony between exhibitors and distributors and would pave the way for needed cooperation in the postwar era."

980 FP-C Employes In Allied Forces

TORONTO, Jan. 23.—Some 980 employes of Famous Players Canadian Corp. are now serving in the armed forces of Canada and the U. S. Forty have been reported killed or missing in action, ten are prisoners, and an undetermined number have been wounded or invalided through illness.

Cpl. Thomas O'Connell, formerly of the Granada Theatre, Hamilton, one of the first Canadian paratroopers to land in France on D-Day, is a patient in a military hospital in England. Originally reported missing, Cpl. O'Connell was captured by the Nazis and later rescued by advancing Allied forces. Two former members of the St. Clair Theatre here are recent casualties. Archie Whitelaw of the RCAF was killed in a transport crash in Labrador, and Sgt. David Richardson, also of the RCAF, is missing after his fourth flight over Germany.

Family Club Barn Dance

The 20th Century-Fox Family Club will hold its annual barn dance and dinner Wednesday evening, Feb. 21, at the Civic Center Ballroom instead of at the Movietone News Building, as originally planned. The change is due to fire ordinances prohibiting further use of the Movietone building for social functions.

United Amusement Offers Bond Issues

TORONTO, Jan. 23.—United Amusement Corp., Ltd., associate of Famous Players Canadian Corp., has offered an issue in two blocks totaling $1,250,000, dated Feb. 1. The first is for $450,000 and has a schedule of maturities from 1946 to 1955, with graduating interest from two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half per cent, while the second is $800,000 four per cent bonds, due Feb. 1, 1963.

United, which operates 30 theatres recently called for five per cent 20-year bonds for redemption, Feb. 1, through the Montreal Trust Co. A premium of two-and-three-quarter per cent and accrued interest is being paid on the redeemed bonds.

Plan Film Exhibit

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 23.—Louis Orlove of the M-G-M exploitation department here is soliciting old motion picture equipment from exhibitors for the construction of a proposed permanent film exhibit at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Nedley in MGM Post

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 23.—C. P. Nedley, recently appointed M-G-M branch manager here, has taken over his new post.

Jury Gets Murray Conspiracy Case

CHICAGO, Jan. 23.—The jury late this afternoon received the Thomas Murry million-dollar conspiracy case for deliberation after three weeks of testimony.

Harold Norman, plaintiff's attorney, in his closing arguments earlier today said his client is seeking only $40,000 in damages based on a five-year period starting Jan. 1st, 1937. He argued that the plaintiff did not have the freedom of an open market in buying choice product, and that during Murray's operation of the Thalia Theatre, since 1926, the competitive Milo Theatre combined with the B. and K. Midwest Theatres, Inc., booking and buying corporation, and the major distributors to force him out of business.

Because Federal Judge William Holly earlier ruled that the plaintiff cannot introduce as evidence price fixing contracts or claim damages for loss of real estate property, Murray reduced his claim.

Myles G. Seeley, attorney for the defendants, stated that none of them entered into any conspiracy to force the plaintiff out of business. He charged that the only reason the Milo was given the better product was due to that theatre's ability to pay better prices.

Regardless of the decision, the case will go to the U. S. Court of Appeals here.

Ginsberg to Build New Para. Talent

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 23.—Paramount will intensify its policy of building new talent during 1945, it was stated here today by Henry Ginsberg, studio head.

Since Ginsberg took over production reins from B. G. De Sylva, last September, Paramount has signed up a number of new players, all of whom will be spotted importantly in forthcoming films, said Ginsberg. Mentioned were: Joan Caulfield, Billy De Wolfs, Patric Knowles, Ann Thomas, Pat Phelan, Virginia Welles, Bob Graham, Noreen Nash and Margaret Field.

New Move Against Sunday Showings

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 23.—Another move to outlaw Sunday films is expected to face state legislators now in session. According to a notice issued by the State Federated Legislative Committee, representing 12 church and reform groups, the committee will offer a six-point program to the Assembly, which will be presented to every member of the Legislature.

The committee urges "making sure that the Sabbath shall never be disgraced with Sunday events."

Jovan Has Enemy Film

James Jovan, general manager of Globe Film Co., Chicago, is here to arrange for distribution for "Behind the Enemy Lines," a film wholly compiled from captured Japanese and Nazi films. Jovan is also seeking a Broadway first-run house for the local showing of the film.

FOR THE FIRST TIME

IN MOTION PICTURE HISTORY,

under a new and exclusive arrangement

THE AMERICAN MOVIE-GOING PUBLIC

will determine the winners of a motion picture award—for:

America's Most Popular
ACTRESS

America's Most Popular
ACTOR

America's Most Popular
PICTURE

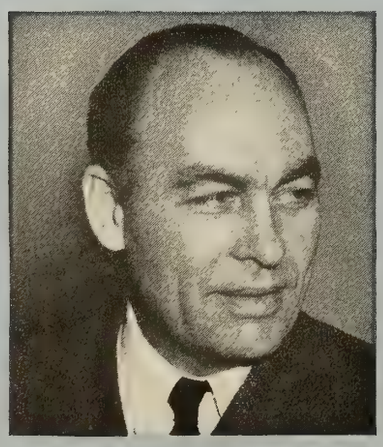
PHOTOPLAY APPOINTS DR. GEORGE GALLUP DIRECTOR OF AUDIENCE RESEARCH, INC. TO CONDUCT AN ANNUAL POLL OF THE UNITED STATES MOVIE-GOING PUBLIC

For many years Photoplay has felt that the public itself should have an opportunity to name its own selection of the year's most popular actress, actor, and picture.

Not only the industry, the critics, and the exhibitors have this opportunity through many *special* polls, but so do editors and different groups of readers of single magazines and newspapers.

Now—*America itself* will have its chance—and the oldest, most honored award of all, the Photoplay Gold Medal, will go each year to the winners.

This preview of Photoplay's editorial page for February—tells the whole story.



Dr. George Gallup heads, as well, the Institute which has correctly predicted—before election—the voters' choice in five U.S. presidential elections and scores of other elections in the United States and other countries.

For the first time in the history of motion picture awards, this same scientific polling method will be applied to determine the real favorites of the movie-going public.

By Dr. Gallup's methods, polls are conducted periodically through the year so that pictures and stars can compete on an even basis, controlling the problems of timing and distribution.

Announcing with Pride...

The New Photoplay Gold Medal Awards

WHO were the year's favorite film actor and actress? Which was 1944's most popular picture?

At the close of each year many attempts are made to answer these questions.

There are the Academy Awards, the Oscars given by the motion picture industry to its workers judged the most outstanding.

There are the film critics' awards given in New York and other metropolitan cities. There are the film trade-publication awards based on box-office earnings. There are in some cities the selections made by newspaper ballots cast by local readers and in a few instances magazines also have run ballots restricted to their own readers.

But there has never been a nationwide poll taken of the actual movie audience itself, the general public of the United States; never any awards given to the picture, the actor and the actress selected by those of us who go to the movies not as critics or professional movie-makers but as Johnny Q. Public.

Now Photoplay has made it possible for the entire movie-going public to name its own selections of the outstanding pictures and stars of the year.

In the interests of its readers, of the Hollywood film industry and of the general public, Photoplay has arranged with Dr. George Gallup, best known of all audience research directors, to determine the nation's most popular pictures and stars each year.

Dr. Gallup will employ the same research technique which has enabled him in the past three presidential elections in the United States to predict within one and one-half per cent the popular vote majority of the presidential winner.

So that there may be complete impartiality, Photoplay, while underwriting all costs of this yearly undertaking, has agreed to leave the entire research to Dr. Gallup and his highly skilled organization.

Photoplay, unwilling to risk any ballot-box stuffing, is publishing no voting coupon on the pages of any issue of its magazine. Its readers are polled by Dr. Gallup only as they are a part of the general movie public of the United States.

The editors of Photoplay will not know until Dr. Gallup brings them his finished survey which picture and which stars have won these high awards. Nor will Hollywood or the general public know in advance of Photoplay readers. The announcements to the newspapers of the country will not be made until the day that you pick up your copy of the March issue, on sale February 16th throughout America.

So that some tangible recognition will remain throughout the year to the studio producing America's favorite picture and to the individual stars whom the nation selects as the stars of the year, Photoplay will present its famed Gold Medals on the day of the announcements. These medals remain the permanent possession of the winning studio and stars.

The last of the polling throughout the country was taken in December, the results have now been rushed to Princeton, New Jersey, where Dr. Gallup's Audience Research Institute carries out its analyses and the winners will be determined while the presses for Photoplay's next issue are held. The day the selections are finally made by Dr. Gallup, the presses will begin to run speeding the news to Photoplay's readers. Secrecy will be maintained by Photoplay's staff of writers, editors and printers until the day of sale when the announcement will be made in the daily papers and on the radio throughout the nation naming the winners of Photoplay's first annual Gold Medal Awards given on the basis of the new Photoplay-Gallup poll.

Fred R Sammis

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PHOTOPLAY GOLD MEDAL AWARDS

The First Annual Motion Picture Awards—REESTABLISHED—
to be presented during the week of February 19, 1945

Who
is the whole nation's most popular movie actress?

Who
is the whole nation's most popular movie actor?

What
was the whole nation's most popular picture?

PHOTOPLAY on the nation's newsstands February 16...
will carry the full report of the final results

AMERICA'S FASTEST SELLING MOTION PICTURE MAGAZINE

Lawrence Abroad On 'Henry V' Plans

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Jan. 23.—Jock Lawrence, U. S. West Coast publicist recently appointed to handle publicity for J. Arthur Rank in that country, has been summoned to England in the immediate future to discuss an unprecedented American roadshow scheme for "Henry V" devised by Rank himslf, the British production executive told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here today. Rank believes "Henry" is the greatest picture yet made.

Rank has laughed at the advice cabled here from New York that "Henry" will be unacceptable to American audiences. He contends that viewpoint does not appreciate the possibilities inherent in Laurence Olivier's revolutionary treatment of Shakespeare, contending that this film has taken them unawares just as talking pictures did originally.

Declaring that Britain now leads the way in developing the possibilities of motion pictures and will not be bound by the standards of Hollywood, Rank added: "I will roadshow 'Henry V' and demonstrate that the industry's salescraft has not yet tapped one-tenth of the potential revenue."

Dr. Alexander Galperson and Barrington Gain will return to the U. S. with Lawrence to organize the roadshow. Rank said he would make the trip himself had he not vowed to remain in London, despite bomb attacks, until the end of the war.

Boston Concerned Over 'Brownout'

BOSTON, Jan. 23.—The 'brownout' order is causing some consternation here, especially among newsreel theatres. If enforced, it will mean the blackout of electric news ribbons.

The Boston *Herald Traveler* is now consulting with Government officials to determine what can be done in its case, since it had been contemplating an arrangement with the Old South Theatre whereby its electric tape would be shown outside the theatre day and night.

Congress Silent On St. Louis Plea

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 23.—Louis K. Ansell, chairman of the St. Louis Motion Picture Exhibitors Committee, reported today that no answer has been received from the committee's letter sent last week to Rep. Andrew J. May, chairman of the House Military Affairs committee at Washington, urging that 167 reputedly "excess" union employes on theatre payrolls here be transferred to war jobs. The committee asserted that the men are not needed in theatres and kept on the payrolls through union "pressure."

Ansell explained the committee did not anctipate an answer, but felt it was its duty to call the situation to the attention of Congress. The St. Louis Board of Aldermen has not taken any action on the committee's suggestion that the ordinance requiring two projectionists in all theatre booths be repealed. In view of the approaching mayoralty election, it is not anticipated that any action will be taken this Spring.

Mobilize New York Radio To Aid Red Cross Drive

Plans for the mobilization of New York's radio stations for the Red Cross 1945 War Fund drive were outlined at a luncheon at the Hotel Waldorf Astoria, here, yesterday. James E. Sauter, head of the United Theatrical War Activities Committee, who is chairman of the radio division of the New York drive, and Walter L. (Red) Barber, general Red Cross chairman for Greater New York, presided.

Barber stressed the importance of an advance drive build-up by the 14 New York radio stations, and suggested items which might be used to make radio listeners aware of the functions of the Red Cross. He also pointed out the importance of concentrating drive efforts this year to get collections in as quickly as possible to help reach the New York goal of $21,187,000.

Stations were asked to start advance campaigns Feb. 1, by Harry Levin, regional radio bureau director for the Office of War Information, another speaker at the luncheon. Precampaign themes should start Feb. 19, he suggested, and lead up to the 'kickoff' day of the drive on Feb. 26. Levin asked that the Red Cross drive be given top priority over other Government matter during March.

Dan Weinberg Named Red Cross Director

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—Dan Weinberg, president of Bedford Theatres, Inc., operating houses in Virginia, who has ben serving as assistant field director with the American Red Cross in the Pacific theatre, has been promoted to field director. Weinberg was formerly district manager for Warner theatres in Virginia, and later held a similar post with Skouras in New Jersey. During his absence his wife, Alyce T. Weinberg of Frederick, Md., is managing his theatre holdings.

Other industry members now with the Red Cross in the Pacific include Stanton Griffis of Paramount, who is Red Cross commissioner for the Pacific Ocean Area, and Arthur Mayer of New York's Rialto Theatre, deputy commissioner in charge of public relations.

Gottlober Named to 'Cross' War Fund

Sigmund Gottlober, president of the American Foreign Language Press Institute, specializing in motion picture promotion, has been appointed chairman of the foreign language press division of the public information committee of the 1945 Red Cross War Fund campaign, it was reported here yesterday by James M. Cecil, committee chairman.

Gottlober's group will serve as liaison between the 94 foreign language newspapers published in New York City and the Fund committee.

Philco Heads Favor FCC Video Rules

The fullest possible development of television will be simulated in the immediate postwar period and the public will have the benefit of this great new service just as soon as war conditions permit, as a result of the new allocation of frequencies by the Federal Communications Commission, according to Larry E. Gubb, chairman, and John Ballantyne, president of the Philco Corp.

Philco plans to be ready with postwar television sets for the general public within a few months after the end of the war.

In a statement to the FCC, Gubb and Ballantyne commend the new allocations. "In our judgment, especially when consideration is given to the magnitude of the problems confronting the Commission, a splendid overall job has been done in reconciling the claims of the many different radio services for portions of the spectrum," it was said.

"While we would have preferred that a greater number of channels below 216 megacycles be reserved for television, we believe that the Commission adopted a forward-looking policy in making it possible to give a high quality television service to the public in that part of the spectrum already being used for television, where most of the presently available engineering and operating experience lies, while at the same time encouraging research and development work to go ahead in the ultra-high frequencies," Gubb and Ballantyne stated to the FCC.

Sams New Head of Carolina Group

CHARLOTTE, Jan. 23.—A. F. Sams, Jr., Statesville, yesterday was elected new president of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, in its annual session here, succeeding George Parr, Lancaster, S. C., who was elected first vice-president. Other officers named were: Roy Rowe, Burgaw, N. C., second vice-president; Mrs. Pauline Griffith, reelected secretary-treasurer. Directors are: H. H. Everett, Sam Trincher, H. F. Kincey, T. A. Little, H. E. Buchanan, George Carpenter, E. L. Hearne, C. H. Arrington, O. T. Kirby, J. F. Miller, all from North Carolina; and, H. R. Berry, J. C. Long, J. D. Harvey and Ben L. Strozier, all South Carolinians.

The association reports a membership of 357, largest in its history. Nearly 300 were in attedance. John Vickers, Charlotte, described television as a definite postwar development in the South. Col. Donald B. Thurman of Morris Field Army Air Base, was the chief afternoon speaker. Also speaking were Charles W. Lewis of Raleigh, North Carolina state fire marshal, on "Good Housekeeping in Theatres," and H. M. Richey of M-G-M.

Sgt. Fishman, 19, Killed

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 23.—Sgt. Stanley Fishman, 19, son of Selig Fishman of the Fishman circuit, operating four theatres here, has been killed in action. The sergeant was the nephew of Jack and Aaron Fishman, also associated with the circuit.

Photoplay Reports 1st Poll Tabulations

First tabulations of *Photoplay Magazine's* annual poll, being conducted this year by the Gallup Audience Research, Inc., to determine filmgoers' preferences in pictures and players, were reported yesterday by Dr. George Gallup. Final results, analyses of which are still incomplete, will be revealed Feb. 15.

Following are the top ten films to date, listed alphabetically: "A Guy Named Joe," M-G-M; "Destination Tokyo," Warners; "Going My Way," Paramount; "Laura," 20th Century-Fox; "Mrs. Parkington," M-G-M; "See Here, Private Hargrove," M-G-M; "Since You Went Away," United Artists; "The Story of Dr. Wassell," Paramount; "The Sullivans," 20th Century-Fox; "Two Girls and a Sailor," M-G-M.

The poll of actors to date has produced the names of Humphrey Bogart, Gary Cooper, Bing Crosby, Cary Grant and Bob Hope, while actresses listed are Bette Davis, Judy Garland, Greer Garson, Betty Grable and Ginger Rogers.

Photoplay will make its Gold Medal awards on Feb. 15, in the respective Hollywood studios of final winners. Orr J. Elder, president, and Carroll Rheinstrom, general manager of MacFadden Publications, Inc., will make the presentations.

Lt. Bifarella Missing

BUFFALO, Jan. 23.—Lt. Sam Bifarella, formerly of the Joyland Theatre, at Springville, is reported missing while en route from overseas.

TBA Elects Bingley To Succeed Gibson

Frank J. Bingley, chief television engineer for Philco, has been elected vice-president of Television Broadcasters Association, succeeding Robert L. Gibson of General Electric, who has resigned as an officer and director of TBA. The vacancy on the board remains.

New TBA chairmen, appointed by TBA president J. R. Poppele, are: Paul Raibourn, publicity chairman, and Douglas Day, co-chairman; Ralph B. Austrian, membership; Bingley, engineering, and O. B. Hanson, television station operations, standards and personnel.

Arthur to Insist on Decree Intervention

(*Continued from page* 1)

the Government's pending consent decree litigation. The plea was denied by Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard in New York on Dec. 20.

Arthur said that the decision to appeal was decided upon without waiting for the outcome of his decree damage and injunction suit against the American Arbitration Association, the Government, and the five decree distributors, pending in the United States District Court here. Defendants in that case have been granted additional time in which to file their answers.

Eli Goldstein Dead

BUFFALO, Jan. 23.—Eli W. Goldstein, 58, theatre architect, who designed the Mercury and the Little theatres, here, died Sunday after a short illness.

WPB Insists on No Theatre Closings

(*Continued from page* 1)

urgently in need of replacements, so that the stockpile will not be completely depleted in the event of a sudden emergency.

This became known following this week's approval of a booth equipment production program for the second quarter of this year by the WPB.

The program calls for output at the same level as in the final 1944 quarter—335 projectors, 156 Sound systems, 360 lamp houses and 365 rectifiers.

The approved program, it was learned, represented all that was asked by Allen G. Smith, chief of the WPB theatre equipment division, in recognition of the tight manpower, material and machinery situation created by expanded war programs and the need for large numbers of men for the Armed Forces, which has necessitated the paring of most civilian production programs.

Expanded Last Year

Smith late last year was successful in securing approval for an expanded output of booth equipment for the current quarter, and that program was not disturbed when WPB cut back other programs to meet new war exigencies. In passing on the second-quarter program, WPB took into consideration the high importance of the industry's war effort, which also was recognized last week by the War Manpower Commission in its revision of the list of critical and essential industries, in which the production of photographic equipment was rated as critical.

Judges Pick M-G-M Winners Jan. 31

M-G-M will hold a special luncheon on Wednesday, Jan. 31, in the Hotel Astor, here, at which the three national winners in M-G-M's "Miss Anniversary Bathing Beauty Contest," launched last June by Howard Dietz, vice-president and director of advertising-publicity, and William R. Ferguson, exploitation director, as part of the company's 20-year anniversary celebration, will be announced.

Judges who will make the selections are: Vincent Trotta, National Screen Service; Arthur William Brown, president of the Socitey of Illustrators; Earl Wilson, New York *Evening Post* columnist; Russel Patterson, illustrator, and George Frazier, associate editor of *Life Magazine*.

Studios Ask NLRB to Clarify an 'Extra'

(*Continued from page* 1)

a jurisdictional dispute between the SPU and the Screen Actors Guild, with both claiming jurisdiction over extra players. The SAG defines extras as engaged in non-speaking, non-singing, non-stunt work, while SPU asserts it has rights over those players. SPU won a National Labor Relations Board election, last December, giving it jurisdiction over extra players, but the interpretation and definition of what constitutes an extra, has continued to leave the jurisdiction in a turmoil, with the studios in the middle.

Academy Lists 137 Films As '45 Award Nominees

(*Continued from page* 1)

17th annual awards voting, with nominations closing Feb. 3:

Abroad With Two Yanks, Edward Small; Adventures of Mark Twain, WB; Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves, U; American Romance, MGM; And Now Tomorrow, Para; Andy Hardy's Blonde Trouble, MGM; Are These Our Parents?, Mono; Arsenic and Old Lace, WB; Atlantic City, Rep; Bathing Beauty, MGM; Between Two Worlds, WB; Bowery to Broadway, U; Brazil, Rep; Bridge of San Luis Rey, UA; Broadway Rhythm, MGM; Canterville Ghost, MGM; Casanova Brown, RKO; Chip Off the Old Block, U; Christmas Holiday, U; Climax, U; Cobra Woman, U; Conspirators, WB; Cowboy and the Senorita, Rep; Cross of Lorraine, MGM; Days of Glory, RKO; Delinquent Daughters, PRC; Desert Song, WB; Dixie Jamboree, PRC; Double Indemnity, Para; Doughgirls, WB.

Also Nominated

Also: Dragon Seed, MGM; Enemy of Women, Mono.; Eve of St. Mark, 20th-F; Fighting Seabees, Rep; Follow the Boys, U; Gaslight, MGM; Ghost Catchers, U; Going My Way, Para; Government Girl, RKO; Greenwich Village, 20th-F; Gung Ho, U; Guy Named Joe, MGM; Gypsy Wildcat, U; Hail the Conquering Hero, Para; Hairy Ape, UA; Hands Across the Border, Rep; Happy Land, 20th-F; Her Primitive Man, U; Higher and Higher, RKO; His Butler's Sister, U; Hollywood Canteen, WB; Home in Indiana, 20th-F; House of Frankenstein, U; I Love a Soldier, Para; I'll Be Seeing You, UA; Imposter, U; In Our Time, WB; In Society, U; Invisible Ma's Revenge, U; Irish Eyes Are Smiling, 20th-F.

Also: Iron Major, RKO; It Happened Tomorrow, UA; Jack London, UA; Jane Eyre, 20th-F; Janie, WB; Johnny Doesn't Live Here Any More, Mono; Kismet, MGM; Knickerbocker Holiday, UA; Lady and the Monster, Rep; Lady in the Dark, Para; Lady, Let's Dance, Mono; Ladies Courageous, U; Laura, 20th-F; Lifeboat, 20th-F; Lodger, 20th-F; Lost Angel, MGM; Make Your Own Bed, WB; Man from Frisco, Rep; Marine Raider, RKO; Mask of Dimitrios, WB; Master Race, RKO; Meet Me in St. Louis, MGM; Merry Monahans, U; Minstrel Man, PRC; Miracle of Morgan's Creek, Para; Mr. Skeffington, WB; Mrs. Parkington, MGM; Music in Manhattan, RKO; My Pal Wolf, RKO.

Also: No Time for Love, Para; None But the Lonely Heart, RKO; Our Hearts Were Young and Gay, Para; Passage to Marseille, WB; Pearl of Death, U; Phantom Lady, U; Princess and the Pirate, RKO; Purple Heart, 20th-F; San Diego, I Love You, U; San Fernando Valley, Rep; Scarlet Claw, U; See Here, Private Hargrove, MGM; Sensations of 1945, UA; Seventh Cross, MGM; Sherlock Holmes and the Spider Woman, U; Shine on Harvest Moon, WB; Show Business, RKO; Since You Went Away, UA; Song of Nevada, Rep; Song of Russia, MGM; Song of the Open Road, UA; Standing Room Only, Para; Step Lively, RKO; Storm Over Lisbon, Rep; Story of Dr. Wassell, Para; Sullivans, 20th-F; Summer Storm, UA.

Others Listed

Also: Sunday Dinner for a Soldier, 20th-F; Swing Hostess, PRC; Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo, MGM; Three Men in White, MGM; Three Russian Girls, UA; Two Girls and a Sailor, MGM; Uncertain Glory, WB; Up in Arms, RKO; Up in Mabel's Room, UA; Very Thought of You, WB; Voice in the Wind, UA; When Strangers Marry, Mono; Where Are Your Children?, Mono; White Cliffs of Dover, MGM; Wilson, 20th-F; Wing and a Prayer, 20th-F; Winged Victory, 20th-F; Woman of the Town, UA; Women in Bondage, Mono; Yellow Rose of Texas, Rep.

Omission of Columbia productions from the list was explained by the Academy in a statement quoting a letter from Columbia executive D. G. Cassell confirming a "telephone request that none of the Columbia Pictures be included." The statement pointed out: "The non-appearance of Columbia pictures does not affect their eligibility." Columbia officials did not comment on matter.

Deny Mexicans Sent Argentina Raw Stock

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 23.—Charges by *El Popular*, labor daily, that Argentina was supplied with 20,000,000 feet of raw stock from Mexico, have been denied by Government and industry sources here.

What stock went to the Argentine during 1944 "leaked" from this country's black market, as all stock available was needed in the production program of 66 Mexican pictures, it was pointed out.

Alexander in New York

J. Don Alexander, president of Alexander Film Co., and chairman of the board of General Screen Advertising, Inc., has arrived in New York from Colorado Springs, for three weeks. Alexander attended a Chicago meeting of General Screen stockholders while enroute here.

New Bill Legalizing N. Y. Bingo Offered

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 23.—A resolution legalizing, by constitutional amendment, the game of Bingo in New York City and Nassau and Suffolk counties, has been introduced in the state legislature by Sen. James J. Crawford, who introduced a similar proposal last year.

Pickford Picking Players

Mary Pickford announced here yesterday that she is assembling a stock company of young players to be used in the making of Mary Pickford Productions for United Artists release. Sam Coslow, Pickford producer, and Miss Pickford, are interviewing stage players, here. Screen tests will follow. Robert Cummings will be signed as soon as Cummings secures a release from Universal, Miss Pickford said.

2,000 Due at IRE Winter Meet Today

The 1945 Winter technical meeting of the Institute of Radio Engineers, to cover television and radio and other electronic communications media, will open at the Hotel Commodore here today and will continue through Saturday. Over 2,000 engineers, physicists and representatives of the Armed Forces are expected to register for the four-day meeting.

Sessions today will be devoted entirely to reports of IRE sections from all over the country. This evening, the IRE will join the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in saluting Dr. E. F. W. Alexanderson, consulting engineer of General Electric, with the award of the Edison Medal.

Papers on Progress

Tomorrow, the engineers will hear the first of 41 technical papers covering progress during wartime. Panel sessions will be held morning and afternoon. In the evening the Institute will hold its 33rd annual banquet and present two honors to communications scientists. The Morris Liebmann Memorial prize award will go to W. W. Hansen of Stanford University. H. H. Beverage, associate director of RCA Laboratories, Princeton, will receive the Medal of Honor. Presentations will be made by Dr. W. L. Everitt, newly elected president of the Institute. H. B. Richmond, chairman of the board of the General Radio, will act as toastmaster and Francis Colt de Wolf, chief of the telecommunications division, Department of State, Washington, will be the principal speaker.

Para. to Award Bonds for 'Bell' Campaigns

Paramount will award $1,400 in war bonds to the six theatre managers who stage the best campaigns for the popular-priced engagements of "For Whom the Bell Tolls," it was disclosed here yesterday by Alec Moss, exploitation manager. Managers playing the film by June 1, 1945 will be eligible.

District judges will be the Paramount district manager, a local theatre operator and the company field representative; national judges will include executives of Paramount and trade paper representatives.

$3,803,462 Record Columbia Bond Buy

Harry Cohn, president of Columbia Pictures, in Hollywood, announced yesterday, through the home office, here, that purchases of war bonds totaling $3,803,462, during the Sixth War Loan drive, established a new record for Columbia. The company's quota was $3,400,000.

The final total represents purchases made by employes, the sale of bonds for which Columbia personnel was responsible, and purchases by the corporation.

20th Seeks 'Indians'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 23.—Twentieth Century-Fox is negotiating with Popular Pictures, Inc., regarding the possible release of "Ten Little Indians," now in production, Joseph M. Schenck said here today.

ARE YOU ALL SET?

EVERYTHING READY FOR RECORD-BREAKING GROSS?

MARCH OF DIMES...JAN. 25-31

1. Is your pledge in? (still time to rush it thru)
2. All set with plenty of volunteer collectors?
3. Ready with enough wide, open collection containers?
4. Entire theatre staff pepped up?
5. Collections scheduled for *every* show, no matter how small the audience?
6. Greer Garson appeal trailer ordered from National Screen?
7. Those two one-sheets in lobby frames?
8. Your theatre citation framed in boxoffice?
9. Arrangements for collections at public gatherings outside of your theatre?
10. Wishing Well in your lobby?
11. Ushers filling those birthday coin-cards?
12. Other money-getting stunts in campaign book?

Okay . . . let's go. Let's do our best!

Chicago Variety's Charity Officers Set

CHICAGO, Jan. 23.—Jack Kirsch, Allied of Illinois president and newly elected chief barker of Variety Clubs Tent No. 26 here, has appointed a special committee to formulate charity drives which the local tent will support. The committee is composed of Kirsch, John Balaban, Hal Halperin, Eddie Silverman and Tom Flannery.

Other officers for 1945 are: Kirsch, president; Jack Rose, first vice-president; Edward Brunell, second vice-president; Balaban, treasurer; Irving Mack, property master; canvasmen are: Johnny Jones, Hal Halperin, William Baker, William Banford, Tom Flannery, Ben Eisenberg and Lou Harrison.

St. Louis Tent No. 4 Chairmen Named

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 23.—Committee chairmen of Variety Club Tent No. 4 have been appointed by chief barker Albert Stetson, as follows: Herb Washburn, membership; Henry C. Riegel, Jr., house committee; Harry C. Crawford, entertainment; Sam Levin, constitution and by-laws; Barney Rosenthal, welfare and charity; M. L. Plessner, publicity.

Also, Joseph C. Ansell, finance; Matt Schulter, ticket selling; Tom Canavan, attendance; Harry Crawford, fellowship; Albert Wheeler, initiation; Tony Peluso, sports; Andy Dietz, club headquarters; Louis K. Ansell, ways and means.

Seek to Establish a Toronto Variety Club

TORONTO, Jan. 23.—Permanent club quarters in a downtown hotel here are being sought by film men as the first step in the establishment of a Variety Club.

Among sponsors are: J. J. Fitzgibbons, Oscar Hanson, Leo Devaney, Paul Nathanson and Gordon Lightstone.

Albany Variety Inducts

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 23.—Two hundred attended the Variety dinner held here at the Ten Eyck Hotel for retiring and incumbent officers. Herman L. Ripps, M-G-M manager, was installed as chief barker and C. J. Latta, New York state manager for Warner theatres and retiring chief barker, was presented with a gift. Guests included Steve Broidy and Harry Thomas, Monogram executives. George Jeffrey, local United Artists representative, was in charge of arrangements.

Kinsler Appoints Eight

CINCINNATI, Jan. 23.—Ralph Kinsler, newly-elected chief barker of local Variety, has appointed the following committee chairmen: House, Allan S. Moritz; entertainment, Arthur Frudenfeld; publicity, Noah Schecter; memberbership, Lev Bugie; activities, Irving Sochin; welfare, H. J. Wessel; law, A. L. Weinstein; finance, Maurice White.

Epstein Buys Monogram

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 23.—Monogram's program for 1944-45 has been bought by Epstein Theatres of Omaha.

'A Tree Grows in Brooklyn'

(Continued from page 1)

the tree that grows in Brooklyn, the strange but indigenous upstart which virtually pushes aside the cement of tenement courtyards to raise its branches to air and sun and sky. Why or how either human spirit or tree can grow in such environment is no more stated in the film than in the novel. But the miracle that they do is affirmed by gifted cast and camera, under the brilliant direction of Elia Kazan and through Louis D. Lighton's authentic production.

DOROTHY McGUIRE is the tenement janitress who labors so that her children, Peggy Ann Garner and Ted Donaldson, may some day know a life better than that to which they were born. James Dunn, as the father, is a singing waiter unemployed more often than not, and an alcoholic to boot. Yet in him are joviality and kindness and love of humanity, which he dispenses prodigally while he lives and, when he dies, still a young man, leave him more beloved by both children and neighbors than the wife and mother who gave as lavishly of herself as did he, but in the less endearing although more practical terms of self-sacrifice and discipline and ambition.

The daughter, whose love for her father was foremost, learns from him the pleasure of dreaming and the excitement of imagination, and from the mother, responsibility and aspiration which, in a lesser measure, have been imparted to the younger brother, too. And when a Brooklyn police officer makes stilted but welcome marriage proposal to the widowed mother, it is implicit that what the children have become will, like the tree that grows in Brooklyn, bring them triumph over their environment.

THERE is more sustained pathos, unrelieved heartache, in this production than the reviewer has encountered in many a motion picture. The last half of the film offers virtually no emotional escape up to the final few minutes. In this respect it is a great women's picture, although one that will get to the men, as well.

The work of Peggy Ann Garner, Miss McGuire and Dunn is outstanding among performances that leave little to be desired. In supporting roles, Joan Blondell as the children's aunt with a weakness for men named Bill; Lloyd Nolan as the police officer; James Gleason as a saloon keeper; Ferike Boros as the children's grandmother; Ruth Nelson as a school teacher, and John Alexander as the children's uncle, are excellent.

The picture is one which lends itself naturally to judicious exploitation, apart from the exceptional popularity of the book on which it is based and the word of mouth advertising which in themselves will make it an outstanding box office attraction.

Running time, 128 minutes. "G."* Release, in February.

SHERWIN KANE

"Tahiti Nights"

(*Columbia*)

Hollywood, Jan. 23

JINX FALKENBURG and Dave O'Brien are called upon to portray a pair of Polynesian lovers in Sam White's production, and it's pretty tough going for both of them. They certainly do not look Polynesian, but they do look mighty attractive, lolling around in as few clothes as the law allows.

Lillie Hayward's story is laid in a South Sea island such as never existed anywhere, even before the Japanese invasion. Its natives speak a most peculiar jargon in which the familiar form of address, "thee" and "thou," is used in the same sentence with the more formal "you." As for the plot, it is one which Shakespeare used on several occasions with greater success. A girl and a boy betrothed in infancy by their parents, meet and fall in love, each unaware of the other's identity. They try to prevent their own wedding, but the truth is revealed at the critical moment and all ends well.

The Vagabonds provide some comic diversion, and several songs by Harry Owens are spotted throughout. Will Jason directed.

Running time, 63 minutes. "G."*

THALIA BELL

*"G" denotes general classification.

Treasury Tax Refund To Stars, Others

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23. — The Treasury Department this week disclosed that six film personalities overpaid income taxes during the last fiscal year, and were entitled to refunds.

The estate of Carl Laemmle drew a refund of $163,291. Others were: Charles Laughton, $3,033; Henry Fonda, $2,572; Conrad Nagel, $1,082; Simone Simon, $956; Adolphe Menjou, $698. Eastman Kodak is due for a return of $23,806.

Two Sign for Altec

Lewen Pizor Circuit, Philadelphia, has signed Altec Service. Neighborhood Theatres has also contracted for Altec for its 24 situations in Virginia.

New Sound System Test Unit from RCA

A new 'audio chanalyst,' which in a single unit is said to be capable of checking theatre sound equipment for operational breakdowns at any point from photo-cell to speaker, has been announced by RCA. It is comprised of several testing sections or channels and can also serve in emergencies as a bridging unit to substitute for the defective section of an inoperative amplifier.

'Approval' Opens Sat.

English Films' "On Approval," British-made and starring Beatrice Lillie and Clive Brook, will have its American premiere at the Republic Theatre, here, on Saturday.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Jan. 23

RAY ENRIGHT will direct "Man Alive," RKO's new romantic comedy starring Pat O'Brien. . . . Universal has purchased "Black Angel," a mystery by Cornell Woolrich, and has assigned it to Islin Auster to produce. . . . Angela Greene has been assigned an important role in "Danger Signal," which William Jacobs will produce for Warners.

•

"Voodoo Queen," original by William Lively, has been set as the first Monogram feature to star Acquanetta under her new contract. . . . RKO has signed Boris Karloff to a new contract calling for three pictures during the next two years.

•

Sol Siegel has borrowed Scott Elliott from 20th Century-Fox for a featured role in "Kiss and Tell," which will be released through Columbia. . . . Constance Bennett has signed Paul Andor for her current production, "Paris—Underground." . . . 20th Century-Fox has signed Samuel Engel to a writing contract.

•

Erskine Caldwell has been signed by Ripley-Monter productions to write the screenplay for "Look Homeward, Angel," which Arthur Ripley will direct. . . . Chester Morris has signed a new contract with Columbia which calls for him to do four more pictures for that studio in the next two years. . . . Angela Lansbury has been added to the cast of M-G-M's "The Harvey Girls."

SPG Studies Merger With UOPWA Local 1

The Screen Publicists Guild of New York, representing over 300 publicists in the home offices and on leave to the Armed Forces, is considering an amalgamation with local No. 1 of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO. Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, local 109, another CIO union, representing 3,000 'white collar' workers in home offices, recently voted to amalgamate with local No. 1.

SPG has appointed a committee to study the amalgamation, which will probably be put to a vote by the SPG membership shortly. Details of the amalgamation will be further discussed at a meeting on Feb. 15.

UOPWA local No. 1 also represents 'white collar' workers in the magazine, book publishing, insurance and other fields, with a membership of about 60,000.

Col. Entertains for Blair and Bowman

Columbia was host at a cocktail party at Copacabana yesterday for Janet Blair and Lee Bowman, featured in "Tonight and Every Night."

Among those attending, in addition to trade press, newspaper, magazine and radio representatives, were: Jack Cohn, Gus Eyssell, B. K. Blake, Frank Rosenberg, Mrs. Lee Bowman, Adrienne Ames, Fred Lynch, Harry McWilliams, Dick Condon, Ed Schreiber, Hortense Schor and Ray Murray.

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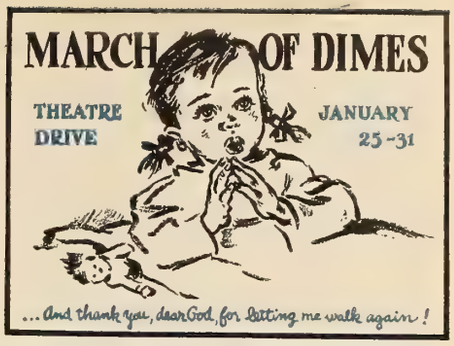

13,000 Houses Start 'Dimes' Drive Today

Pledges at Record High; Expect $6,000,000

The 1945 March of Dimes drive will get under way today in over 13,000 theatres in the U. S. and possessions, a far greater number of theatres than have been pledged in any previous 'dimes' campaign.

The more optimistic of the industry's drive committee yesterday predicted a record $6,000,000 as the result of this year's collections, against the high $4,667,000 raised in 1944, to where totals have grown from 1941's $435,000, 1942's $1,403,000, and 1943's $2,116,000.

Twenty-four hours before the new campaign got under way, 694 out of a

(*Continued on page* 6)

Allied Keeps Decree Stand

COLUMBUS, Jan. 24.—The Allied States board of directors, meeting here today and tomorrow at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel, reaffirmed by resolution their approval of the Department of Justice proposals for modifying the industry consent decree, which were filed in U. S. District court, New York, last Aug. 7.

The resolution held that the proposals would "dispel existing uncer-

(*Continued on page* 6)

Goddard Extends Appeal Board

Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard signed an order here yesterday extending the terms of the three members of the arbitration appeal board for another year.

Presently serving on the board are George W. Alger, Albert W. Putnam and Robert McC. Marsh.

13 Films Above Average In Grosses at 15 Keys

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

"To Have and Have Not" leads in MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S survey of weekly grosses for theatres in 15 key cities, excluding New York City, for the week ending Jan. 24, on the basis of reports from correspondents.

The next four top grossing films are "And Now Tomorrow," "The Woman in the Window," "Hollywood Canteen" and "Winged Victory."

The cities reported upon in this week's survey include Los Angeles, St. Louis, Denver, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Chicago, Toronto, Boston, San Francisco, Providence, Kansas City and Omaha.

$52,790 Over

Reports from six theatres in four key cities give "To Have and Have Not" a gross of $164,490 where average for the theatres is $111,700. The film made its best showing at the Mastbaum, Philadelphia, were $55,000 was recorded against an average of $22,500. About $8,000 above average is reported from Kansas City and San Francisco and $54,490 was recorded by the three Warner houses in Los Angeles against an average of $51,200.

"And Now Tomorrow" scored with $97,800 at five theatres in as many cities against an average of $71,000. The film did best in St. Louis, Prov-

(*Continued on page* 6)

Murray Wins Trust Suit

By SAM HONIGBERG

CHICAGO, Jan. 24.—A Federal Court jury today awarded $35,000 in damages, plus costs and attorney's fees, to Thomas A. Murray, former exhibitor, who sued distributors, and others, for $1,000,000, charging conspiracy. Under the Sherman law, the award is automatically tripled to $105,000. Found guilty were: Milo Theatre Corp.; John L. Manta, Van A. Nomikos, Henri Elman, Capitol Film Exchange, Loew's and 20th-Fox Film. RKO, Universal and Warners were dismissed.

Appeal Feb. 5

Judge William H. Holly will hear defense counsel's motions for appeal Feb. 5.

Murray charged the defendants with conspiracy in combining to withhold choice product from his Thalia Theatre. He stated that between 1906 and 1925 he had plenty of product, but beginning in 1926, when the competitive Milo opened, he was unable

(*Continued on page* 11)

'Tonight and Every Night'

[*Columbia*]

RITA HAYWORTH's new musical ranks with the best she has done and nestles neatly and comfortably alongside the best of any studio's contemporary efforts in the same field.

"Tonight and Every Night" has stronger story content than most productions of its type, probably because it is based on "Heart of a City," the stage play by Lesley Storm, with blitz-beleaguered London as the dramatic and tense backdrop for the backstage musical. The scene is different and, because it is different, it is all the more effective. Lesser Samuels and Abem Finkel captured these opportunities in their script.

Miss Hayworth is an American performer working in a theatre which prides itself on a record of uninterrupted performances. Come the Nazis and bombs. She and others actually are soldiers of the home front, undeterred by the terror from the skies, in their self-imposed duty of entertaining the men and women of all Allied nations. She meets Lee Bowman, British airman, and that leads to love which once again follows its usual, checkered course. Offshoots of the main romance find

(*Continued on page* 11)

$300,515,911, All-Time High Admission Tax

Averaged Better Than $800,000 Daily in '44

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Federal revenue from theatre admission taxes last year reached the record figure of $300,515,911—slightly better than $800,000 a day, it was disclosed here today by the Internal Revenue Bureau.

The year's collections topped 1943's $165,730,178 by nearly $135,000,000 partially as a result of the higher rates which went into effect last April under the Revenue Act of 1944, plus the increased rate of collections during the eight months of the

(*Continued on page* 11)

Columbia Is 90% Sold

Columbia, in seven months, has written more than 90 per cent of the number of contracts closed in all of the 12 months of 1943-44, A. Montague, general sales manager, will tell a meeting of branch and district managers today at the Hotel Warwick, here. Montague also will tell the sales gathering that 1944-45 to date is Columbia's best year with regard to the number of pictures sold each account.

Today's session will be opened by Jack Cohn, vice-president, who will then turn the meeting over to Montague. Yesterday's meeting was devoted to individual meetings between home office and field executives on product.

In This Issue

Besides "Tonight and Every Night," in adjoining columns, reviews of "Topeka Terror" and "Shadows of Death" appear on page 7; *Motion Picture Daily's* booking chart, page 10.

Are YOU Set? Still Time to Join the March of Dimes

Paramount Set to Produce in Canada

Toronto, Jan. 24. — Paramount plans to establish a small production unit in Canada to make short subjects and possibly, if suitable stories are developed, features with Canadian themes, Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board of directors, revealed here today. He said the films would be shown throughout the world.

SPU, SAG, Studios Argue Over 'Extras'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 24.—The Screen Players Union has wired the National Labor Relations Board asking for a dismissal of the weekend requests made by the studios for a reconsideration of the SPU certification as bargaining agency for extra players performing bits, stunts or parts, jurisdiction over whom is also claimed by the Screen Actors Guild. SAG today notified the NLRB that it will file a petition for the right to intervene in the case. The producers are in the middle of the jurisdictional union dispute between SAG and SPU.

SPU won a December NLRB election, giving it rights over extras, but the question of what constitutes an extra is causing the dispute. SAG defines extras as engaged in non-speaking, non-singing, non-stunt work, while SPU asserts it has rights over those players, too.

Cowan to Appeal to OWI on 'Tomorrow'

Lester Cowan, producer of "Tomorrow the World," announced yesterday that he plans to request a review of action by the Office of War Information overseas branch in refusing shipping facilities for the film to liberated countries of Europe.

A spokesman for the OWI pointed out that the film was found "unsuitable" to policy and directives of the OWI, and, consequently, refused shipping facilities to France, Belgium, Holland and other areas, but said it could be sent to England, Turkey, Sweden, South America and similar territories.

United Artists is releasing for Cowan.

Four from Skirball To Cost $6,000,000

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 24.—Jack Skirball's schedule for 1945 will comprise four major films, to cost $6,000,000. The first will be "It's in the Bag," starring Fred Allen. "Guest Wife," co-starring Claudette Colbert and Don Ameche, is currently before the cameras. In preparation are "French Town," musical in color, and "Genius in the Family," in which Ameche will portray Hiram Maxim, the inventor. Bruce Manning is writing the screenplay.

Personal Mention

R. J. O'DONNELL, vice-president and general manager of Interstate Circuit, Dallas, is in New York.

•

ED HINCHY, head of Warner Bros. playdate department, returned to New York yesterday from Toronto and Montreal.

•

JOHN C. FLINN, S.I.M.P.P. executive secretary, has left Hollywood for New York and Washington on a fortnight's visit.

•

J. E. ROBIN of the Robin Imperial Electric Co., has left Polyclinic Hospital here after four week's confinement.

•

MRS. E. S. LAUER, assistant to WILLIAM S. COTTON, publisher of Ideal Women's Group magazines, has arrived in Hollywood.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Universal Southern and Canadian sales manager, left for Dallas last night.

•

NAT D. FELLMAN of Warner Bros. Circuit was in New Haven yesterday.

•

ARLINE LEE ROBBINS has joined the staff of RKO's servicemen's magazine, *Salute*, edited by JACK LEVEL.

•

FRANK ROGERS, president of Florida State Theatres, Jacksonville, is in New York.

•

JAMES J. DONOHUE, Paramount's Central division manager, is in Cleveland.

•

WILLIAM ERBB, Paramount's Eastern division manager, is in Washington.

•

HENRY M. HERBEL, Warner West Coast division manager, is scheduled to visit Salt Lake City this week.

•

LESTER COWAN will leave here today for Cincinnati.

BEN KALMENSON, Warners' general sales manager, will leave today for the Coast with a stopover in Chicago.

•

SP. 2/C JOSEPH KEARNS, former assistant manager of the Comerford, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and now stationed at Pensacola, and MRS. KEARNS are the parents of a daughter born last week in Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

•

J. J. O'LEARY, president of Comerford Theatres, has been named campaign chairman for the Lackawanna County March of Dimes Drive for the second consecutive year.

•

TOM MCDONNELL, former manager of Comerford's State, Scranton, has been given a medical discharge from the Army and has been named manager of the circuit's Bell in that city.

•

PVT. ARNOLD SKILLESTAD, formerly with the Rex Theatre at Albion, Neb., is reported to be a prisoner of war in Germany.

•

HOWARD DIETZ, Loew's vice-president in charge of advertising, publicity and exploitation, will return to New York tomorrow from the Coast.

•

MAX MILDER, Warner's managing director in Great Britain, has returned to New York from Hollywood, en route to London.

•

BENJAMIN THAU, M-G-M producer, will leave here tomorrow for the Coast.

•

ALEXANDER KORDA and BEN GOETZ will arrive in New York Monday from the Coast.

•

C. J. FELDMAN, Universal's Western division manager, has been in Salt Lake City this week.

•

HUGH BRALEY, Paramount district manager, has been in Salt Lake City meeting with manager F. H. SMITH.

Dissolve DeMille's AFRA Fee Order

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 24.—Superior Court Judge Emmett H. Wilson today dissolved the temporary restraining order granted Cecil B. De Mille in the radio producer's protest against paying the American Federation of Radio Artists' one dollar assessment levied on its membership to finance a campaign against Proposition 12 in last November's election.

The judge's ruling declared the effect of the restrainer to be "inimical to the welfare of the principle of closed shops." The jurist told MOTION PICTURE DAILY his decision empowers AFRA to keep De Mille off the radio.

Sues Over 'Lifeboat'

Sidney Easton, playwright, filed suit yesterday in New York Federal Court against 20th Century-Fox, charging plagiarism of his play "Lifeboat 13," in the film, "Lifeboat."

Services Today for James A. Byren, 56

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 24. — Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for James A. Byren, 56, who died Monday after a long illness. Byren, retired at the time of his death, had been connected with the industry for 25 years as film booker and manager. He had been manager of the Clearfield Theatre here. Surviving are two sons and two daughters.

Shotwell to Coast on OWI Film Program

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 24.—Dr. James T. Shotwell, State Department consultant to the Office of War Information, arrived here today to spend a month advising on OWI films in production. He will be the guest of War Activities Committee executives and studio research department heads at a luncheon at the Brown Derby tomorrow.

Canada Theatre Tax Hit by Exhibitors

TORONTO, Jan. 24.—Some 400 exhibitors and film representatives here today unanimously adopted a move to oppose a proposed 10 per cent tax on theatre admissions in Ontario, and launched a campaign to block the measure, at a mass meeting in the Victoria Theatre. The directorates of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario, and of the Ontario Council of Independents appointed a general committee to draw up a plan of action, with theatres to be assessed for expenses.

A request made by chairman N. A. Taylor for information on the tax proposal has gone unanswered by L. M. Frost, provincial treasurer. J. J. Fitzgibbons of Famous Players, declared, "We are not going to fight the Government, but we must defend this important business, and we have a perfect right to oppose a tax even while cooperating in support of the war effort."

Haskell Masters, general manager of Canadian Odeon, gave an outline of the campaign program to be followed. Harry Alexander of Toronto urged the committee to continue to function in also opposing the Federal 20 per cent tax, after the Ontario tax problem is settled.

Final 'Depinet Drive' Branch Meet Held

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 24. — Final branch conference for RKO's "Ned Depinet Drive" was held here today by drive "captain" Robert Folliard and "lieutenant" Harry Gittleson, concluding a 22-day tour of the company's exchanges.

Conferences were held with Nat Levy, Eastern sales manager; C. Zagrans, M. E. Lefko and J. B. Brecheen, branch managers in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington, respectively. Leon Levy, president of station WCAU, and Frank L. McNamee, former RKO Philadelphia branch manager, now deputy to Paul McNutt, War Manpower Commissioner, were also present.

Rites at Salt Lake For John W. Trewhela

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 24.—Funeral services were held for John W. Trewhela, industry veteran, who died at Coeuer d'Alene, Ida., after an illness of two months.

Trewhela, who for five years managed two houses for the Symons Amusement Co. at Coeur d'Alene, had been with Fox West Coast Theatres in Utah, Idaho and Montana.

20th to Screen Three

"A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" and "Hangover Square," 20th Century-Fox February releases, will be nationally trade shown on Jan. 30; "Thunderhead," March release, will be screened on Jan. 31, it was reported here yesterday by William J. Kupper, general sales manager.

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Plan to Compel War Work Is Spreading

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Extension to other sections of the country of the "war-work-or-no-work" labor draft instituted in Pennsylvania yesterday was foreseen here today by War Manpower Commission officials.

Under the Pennsylvania plan, employment ceilings of non-essential industries are reduced and the workers thus released are offered war jobs. Failure of a worker to accept a war job bars him from any employment.

It was explained here that War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes issued a directive last August calling for enforcement of employment ceilings as a means of securing workers for war plants, and regional directors of the WMC have authority to cut those ceilings or take such other action as they deem necessary to keep war production going.

Plants Behind Schedule

It is expected that the Pennsylvania plan will spread to other areas where there are "must" war plants behind schedule, and it is possible that if the cutting back of non-essential industry ceilings fails to release the necessary labor workers will be taken also from less urgent essential and war plants.

The Washington office of the WMC was without information as to how the plan would affect exhibitors, but pointed out that the problem offered by theatres would have to be worked out by each regional director individually for his own territory. However, in general, it was pointed out, field officials have been sympathetic to the difficulties of exhibitors and have avoided any action which would necessitate the closing of any theatre.

Video Needs 2 Billion For Film Competition

"Television needs an income of $2,000,000,000 yearly to be able to compete successfully with motion pictures, and no such sum is available," J. J. Nance, vice-president of Zenith Radio Corp., said here yesterday at a meeting of the New York Society of Security Analysts. "Advertisers cannot profitably sponsor good television production until it has a mass audience, and it can not get that until it provides continuous entertainment, pleasing enough to persuade millions to buy receiving sets," he stated.

Nance declared that the problem of securing a return was a serious one, for there is no practical way as yet of making people pay for what is given them. Nance indicated that getting money for expansion was television's most serious problem.

Authors' Injunction Out

Cornelia Otis Skinner and Emily Kimbrough, authors, have lost a plea for an injunction against Paramount to prevent the company from making a fictional sequel to "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay," based on their book and experiences abroad. Justice Louis A. Valente in the New York Supreme Court, in denying the injunction, ruled that the contract signed by the authors granted Paramount sequel rights. The court granted plaintiffs an early trial. Paramount was represented by Louis Nizer.

Report Commends U. S. Canadian-Theme Films

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Commendation of Hollywood's "Going to Canada with increasing frequency for subject material" is given by H. M. Bankhead, commercial attache of the American Embassy at Ottawa, in a report on the industry in Canada, released here today through Nathan D. Golden, chief of the motion picture unit of the U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

"While it is not true," says the report, "that Canadian audiences prefer a film with a Canadian subject, feature pictures with Canadian themes are popular and will continue to be so, particularly in view of Hollywood's new consciousness of its international obligations and the feeling among Canadians that their country has risen in stature as a result of the war and commands a deeper and wider interest among film audiences." Also commended is "the generosity of the American film industry in making available short subjects and film personnel for Canadian Victory Loan campaigns."

Noting that war themes are "not so popular now as they once were," the report, however, states: "Too much flag-waving in United States films and too little attention shown in them, especially in newsreels, to the efforts of the Canadian and British forces are resented by Canadians." In Toronto, where there is a particularly strong feeling of 'imperial loyalty,' newspaper reviewers generally favor British films; nevertheless, local distributors state that British productions must be outstanding and accompanied by considerable publicity to achieve box-office success in that city, the report adds. Throughout the Dominion, about 95 per cent of the features smown are from the U. S., the remainder from England and Russia.

Although no features are produced in Canada, the National Film Board produced some 350 information short subjects last year, Bankhead reports. These included two monthly series of war films for the Dominion's theatres and also 16mm productions for the 90 rural circuits the board operates and for 40 industrial circuits.

The report cites 1,269 theatres in Canada. All provinces reported increases over the previous year. The proportion of single-feature programs shown here increased slightly, from 38.5 per cent to 39.4; some 32 per cent of all theatres use single features only, another 30 per cent use double features exclusively, and the remainder fluctuate between the two policies.

New Dallas Circuit Gets 4 More Houses

DALLAS, Jan. 24.—The recently organized Dallas Associated Theatres has leased the Peak, Airway, Grove and Urban theatres from P. G. Cameron. The Urban, recently damaged by fire, is now under reconstruction. Headed by Glenn McClain, the new enterprise will make temporary headquarters at the Airway, pending the availability of downtown offices. McClain will be city manager, with Theo Routt as booker and J. G. Long Theatres of Bay City also booking and buying for the new circuit.

Managers named to date are J. P. Price, the Peak; R. J. Yowell, Airway, and Albert Cameron, the Grove. Cameron, who recently bought the Aero in Santa Monica, Calif., has left for that city with his son-in-law, Claude Connell, former manager of the Grove. Cameron's son, Guy, former manager of the Airway here, has been managing the Aero.

Mage to Build Circuit, Acquires 3 Houses

BOSTON, Jan. 24.—A new circuit is planned by James J. Mage and his general manager, Harold Weisenthal. Mage, who recently opened the Laffmovie Theatre here, has already acquired the leases and management of the Old South, the Tremont, previously operated by the Liebermann interests, and a newsreel theatre here.

Mage owned 14 theatres in Paris prior to France's invasion by Germany in 1940.

Orchard Park Opens

BUFFALO, Jan. 24.—The Orchard Park Theatre in the suburbs has opened under direction of Bill Brett, former manager of Shea's Buffalo Theatre.

Vacation Bonus for FP-C 25-Year Folk

TORONTO, Jan. 24.—J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players-Canadian, announced here today in connection with the company's 25th anniversary week that employes qualifying for the 25-Year Club, now and in the future, through continuous service for a quarter of a century would be granted an extra week's vacation with pay as a special reward. The policy will become effective if and when federal wartime manpower authorities grant official permission.

WFIL to Air Story Of Films' Invention

The story of the invention of motion pictures will be presented on the "Science Is Fun" radio program of Feb. 5, on station WFIL, Philadelphia. The series, presented by Franklin Institute in cooperation with schools of the Philadelphia area, is a regular feature of WFIL's "Studio Schoolhouse."

The Feb. 5 broadcast will go back to the evening 75 years ago when Henry R. Heyl presented his street show in Philadelphia. Listeners will hear about the program for that evening, during which it was stated that this "new scientific invention was designed to give to various objects and figures on the screen the most graceful and life-like movements." The broadcast will also tell of other highlights in the industry's history.

Sherwood Quits ASCAP

CLEVELAND, Jan. 24.—Edwin A. Sherwood, American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers district supervisor in this territory, has resigned and will return to his Baltimore home this month.

'Song' in Warsaw As Poland Is Reborn

Columbia's "A Song to Remember," featuring the life and music of Poland's Frederic Chopin, was played in Warsaw the day the city fell to the Russians, a 16mm print having been rushed to the Reds by American forces, it is disclosed here by Major John W. Hubbell of the Overseas Motion Picture Service.

The last Chopin music to be played in Warsaw was the broadcast, daily, during the 18 days of the German siege, in September, 1939, and when Warsaw fell the music ceased.

4 Named Winners On Drive Posters

Four winners were announced yesterday by the national industry committee of the 1945 'Red Cross War Fund Week' in the contest held to pick the best posters to be used in the drive, March 15-21.

The winning sketches, to be made into four lithographed four-color posters which will be furnished free to exhibitors, were created by Granger Richardson, Walter Hood, Fred Small and Rico Tomaso, all film home office free-lance artists.

Judges of the contest were: N. Peter Rathvon, national chairman of the industry's drive, Si Fabian and Francis Harmon of the War Activities Committee, and Howard Bonham of the American Red Cross.

The Participants

Among the art directors who participated were: David Strumpf, RKO; Jerry Novat, 20th Century-Fox; Lew Fields, M-G-M; Herman Barnett, RKO Theatres; Jack Myers, Columbia; Vincent Trotta, National Screen; Joseph Tisman, Warners; Herbert Jaediker, United Artists; Harold Gutman, Universal; and the Kayton-Spiero Advertising Agency. Among the artists who competed, besides the winners were: Ben Rogers, George Kessler, G. A. Jaediker, Allan Melhado, Irwin Perchonok, Walter Hanneman, William Hanneman, Saul Schiavone, Howard Barnes.

Albert Cohen Leaves Republic for Col.

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 24.—Albert J. Cohen, Republic associate producer, resigned today. He will join Columbia soon.

Cohen joined Republic as a scenario writer in 1936, and in 1940 was made associate producer. He had owned and operated his own literary agency in Hollywood until 1932, when he became a story editor of Universal, leaving in 1934 to write independently for Warners and M-G-M.

Blue Promotes Donohue

John Donohue, Blue Network Detroit district manager, has been appointed Eastern sales manager of the Blue, succeeding Donald R. Buckham, who has resigned to join Mutual Broadcasting, according to an announcement here yesterday by C. P. Jaeger, general sales manager of the Blue.

YOUR ATTENT

PROUD NEW HISTORY FOR TH

TOMORROW IS THE BEGINNING! TO

FIRST ENGAGEMENT, STRAND, N. Y.

OBJECTIV

Jack L. Warner,

ION PLEASE:

E INDUSTRY IS ON THE WAY!

MORROW IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE

, OF WARNERS' UNSURPASSABLE

E, BURMA!

xecutive Producer

13,000 Houses In 'Dimes' Drive

(Continued from page 1)

potential 700 theatres in downstate New York were pledged to make collections, according to Fred Schwartz, co-chairman; in 1944, only 584 theatres participated. New Jersey is 100 per cent in the drive, with every theatre making collections, stated Frank Damis, state co-chairman.

"We need to hear from as many exhibitors as possible on the progress of the drive in their individual theatres and communities," Oscar A. Doob, campaign director, urged yesterday, "this in order to furnish facts for the newspapers to be used as an incentive to theatres which may be lagging."

Promotion Ideas

The current campaign is said by the committee to be developing more promotion ideas than any previous drive. A concerted effort is being made to cover all large local events. Thousands of stores will have coin boxes, 'wishing' wells and other types of collection gadgets.

In today's New York 'Dimes' parade, which will precede a Times Square demonstration at noon, will be a mounted police escort, the March of Dimes national executive committee, the Coast Guard color guard, Coast Guard band, contingents of Waves and Wac's, Cadet Nurses, American Women's Voluntary Services, Civilian Defense, show girls carrying 'Dimes' banners, and open cabs with screen, stage and radio stars.

613 More Theatres Pledge 'Dimes' Support

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 24.—Of the 617 theatres in this exchange area, 613 have pledged support to the March of Dimes campaign. All houses will run trailers and make collections, it was disclosed here by distributor chairman John Maloney and exhibitor chairman M. A. Silver. Maloney reports that this is the largest number of theatres in Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia ever to support any unified drive.

Cincinnati Hard Hit By Convention Ban

CINCINNATI, Jan. 24.—Downtown theatres here expect to feel the effects of War Mobilization Director James Byrnes' order banning national conventions. Joseph Turner, manager of the local Chamber of Commerce convention bureau, estimates that approximately 50 conventions, with 25,000 delegates, scheduled for this city, will be cancelled. Theatres in the business section have profited substantially from local conventions.

Frazier Back to WB

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 24.—Major Del Frazier, short subject director before going into service, has been placed on the inactive list by the Army and is back at Warners' studio to resume under Gordon Hollingshead, head of short subject production.

Nedley in Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 24.—Carl Nedley has taken over as M-G-M branch manager here, and has left on his initial tour of the territory.

13 Films Above Average In Grosses at 15 Keys

(Continued from page 1)

idence and Philadelphia, where it was $6,000 or better over average. In Toronto and San Francisco it drew $4,000 above average.

"The Woman in the Window" brought $22,500 above average in five theatres in four key cities, recording $100,700 against an average of $83,200. It was $8,000 above average in Kansas City, a big $12,700 above average in two theatres in Los Angeles, just above average in San Francisco and Buffalo.

"Hollywood Canteen" drew $140,800 in nine theatres in nine cities, $16,950 above an average of $123,850. Best business was recorded in St. Louis where it was about $6,700 above average. The film was also above average in Chicago, Denver, Toronto, Boston, Buffalo and Omaha, but below average in Cincinnati and Pittsburgh. The film is in its third week in Cincinnati and in its fourth week in Pittsburgh.

$15,000 Victory

"Winged Victory" was $15,000 above average in four theatres in four cities with best business recorded in Buffalo. A total of $66,000 was reported against an average of $51,000 from Buffalo, St. Louis, Cincinnati and Boston.

Eight other films are doing better than average business in the 15 cities where the films are playing in at least three theatres in these cities. The eight, listed in order of amount scored above average, without consideration given to the particular week of the run, are "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier," "Princess and the Pirate," "Can't Help Singing," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "Together Again," "Keys of the Kingdom," "The Thin Man Goes Home" and "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo."

"Sunday Dinner for a Soldier" was $11,405 above average in three theatres in three cities, Denver, Baltimore and Cincinnati, with best business recorded in Denver. "Princess and the Pirate" scored $8,800 above average in three theatres in Chicago, St. Louis and Pittsburgh with best business being recorded in Chicago.

'Singing': $5,200

"Can't Help Singing" did $5,220 above average in seven theatres in Chicago, Denver, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Kansas City, with best business done in Denver. "Meet Me in St. Louis" was $4,200 above average in four theatres in Los Angeles and Philadelphia with best business done in Philadelphia. "Together Again" was $3,100 above average in three theatres in Chicago, Philadelphia and Providence, with best business reported from Chicago. "Keys of the Kingdom" was $2,900 above average in reports from five theatres in Los Angeles and Denver, with best business done in Denver. "The Thin Man Goes Home" was $1,300 above average in four theatres in Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Boston, with Boston reporting the best business. "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" scored $600 above average in reports on six theatres in Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Omaha, with best business done in Pittsburgh.

"Frenchman's Creek" was better than average in second week at the Paramount Hollywood and Downtown, Los Angeles, and did a strong $20,000 in a fifth week in Chicago at the State-Lake. "Experiment Perilous" was off on a second week in Providence but did average business in Cincinnati.

Allied Reaffirms Its Decree Stand

(Continued from page 1)

tainties and confusion" and aid the industry in entering the postwar period with a firm legal foundation and "united in the observance of fair trade practices." The resolution added that if distributors make the entry of "an adequate or ad interim decree by consent impossible," then Allied will support such move as the Attorney General "may be compelled to take to obtain some temporary relief and to force the trial of the case on its merits."

The resolution empowered Allied's executive committee, pending the next regular or special meeting of the board, to act as a special committee to advise and consult on the subject with Allied's general counsel, Abram F. Myers and, if necessary, "to direct the making of an oral statement to the court or the filing of a brief in the name of Allied and others wishing to join with it as amicus curiae in the furtherance of Allied's policy.

Beery's 32nd Film Year

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 24.—Wallace Beery, starting his 40th year in show business, and his 32nd in films, has signed a new contract with M-G-M. His next film will be "Bad Baccomb," story of an 1860 bandit leader.

Graetz to Reissue 3 Selznick Films

AFE Corp. has acquired domestic reissue rights, for three years, to the following David O. Selznick pictures: "Prisoner of Zenda," "Garden of Allah" and "Tom Sawyer." Paul Graetz, president of AFE, said that the films will be released immediately and that sufficient prints are available.

AFE, which is also the American distributor for Ealing Studios, London, will also place five new Ealing films in release, Graetz said. They are: "48 Hours," "Halfway House," "Return to Yesterday," "Saloon Bar" and "Champagne Charlie."

Free Film Programs

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 24.—An annual average of 100,000 underprivileged children see free weekly motion picture programs sponsored by the New Orleans Better Film group, Mrs. F. K. Williams, chapter president, reports here. The The films are shown at Kinglsey House, the city's largest community center.

Allen Opens Talbot

ATLANTA, Jan. 24.—T. F. Allen, Jr., has opened the New Talbot Theatre in Talbotton.

Mexico Has Stock For Only 15 Films

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 24.—Mexico will not be able to produce more than 15 pictures in the first quarter of 1945, because only 14,000,000 feet of raw stock is available from the U. S., Felipe Gregorio Castillo, chief federal censor and one of a committee of three which the Mexican Government has assigned to investigate the industry's problems, reveals. Stock available for the first quarter will be further depleted because of the necessity of using it to make prints for some 56 films which have already been completed; consequently the 15 new films will remain unprinted until more stock is available.

Rationing, stricter even than that in force last year when only producers of proven ability got any quantity of stock, will be in effect in 1945, it is learned at the Ministry of the Interior. Castillo's committee is conferring with Jesus Grovas, president of the Producers Association, and Salvador Carrillo, representing film labor, to determine what producers shall have raw stock this year. Their selection will be on the basis of ability, experience, integrity and solvency.

Bar Foreign Producers

Effects of the stock shortage, according to official sources, will be to put Mexican producers on a preferred list to obtain stock; and to bar foreign producers from using stock allocated to Mexico, but permitting them to continue to work here, provided they secure their own stock. These measures will assure only exclusively Mexican films; only Mexican directors will be permitted to work on Mexican pictures.

Meanwhile, the government is attempting to secure more stock and also plans to arrange for its production in Mexico. First step would be to use old film for making of new, but this is said to be very unsatisfactory to producers, who feel that it would result in defective productions, chiefly in point of photography. Producers are also opposed to making raw stock on the ground that it would be a wartime expedient and would be overwhelmed when stock becomes plentiful again.

The stock shortage has caused censors to tighten their rules so as to avoid cutting and other waste, by scrutinizing scenarios before they go into production. This is also expected to result, they say, in better pictures.

Mexicans Honor Alstock

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 24.—Francis Alstock, chief of the film division of the U. S. Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, was honored at a banquet here by the Association of Producers and Distributors of Mexican Motion Pictures for his services to the Mexican industry during 1944.

Exchange Workers Elect

CLEVELAND, Jan. 24.—Leah Goldman has been elected president of Exchange Workers, Local No. F-5, at a meeting of the organization, succeeding Arthur Young. Other new officers are: Sarah Altschule, 20th-Fox, vice-president; Grace Dolphin, Paramount, financial secretary; Sylvia Simon, Warners, recording secretary, and Irwin Sears, Paramount, business agent.

$684,000 'Velvet' Gross in 6 Weeks

"National Velvet" concluded a six weeks run at Radio City Music Hall, here, last night, with a gross of $684,000, one of the top six weeks' grossers in its 13-year history. "A Song to Remember" will open there today.

During the run, "National Velvet" set a new all-time week's record of $141,000. First week's gross was $115,000, second week's take built to $130,000, third week was the record $141,000, fourth was $105,000; the fifth, $95,000; and the final will be close to $98,000.

Pedrueza New Film Censor for Mexico

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 24.—Antonio Ramos Pedrueza, former head of the Mexican government's press and publicity bureau, and until recently director of its tourist office in New York, has succeeded Felipe Gregorio Castillo as head of the federal film censoring and film supervision department. Castillo, who directed the department since its inception five years ago, has become adviser to the committee of three that is working to aid the film industry, especially on raw stock problems.

The Association of Producers and Distributors of Mexican Motion Pictures has named the following committee to advise on raw stock: Gregorio Wallerstein and Raul de Anda, representing large producers, and Santiago Reachi and Jose Calderon, the smaller producers.

Film Ban Sustained By Mexican Court

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 24.—The Mexican Supreme Court, in a precedent-making decision for this industry, has sustained the Ministry of Public Education in refusing to register "A la Sembra del Aguila" ("In the Shadow of the Eagle"), a nationalistic Mexican film produced by Humberto Rivas, on the grounds that it distorts Mexican history.

The court, ruling on the case, which has been in litigation since early 1944 when the ministry refused a license, held that while the Government will encourage films that portray Mexico in a true light, it is determined to ban those that distort the truth or disparage the nation.

12 Mexican Films Are Good Box-Office

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 24.—Although Mexican production totaled 66 pictures during 1944, this was considerably short of the expected 83 that was forecast as late as November. During 1944, 64 Mexican films were exhibited, out of which only 12 did well at the box office.

Anda New President

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 24.—Raul de Anda, producer, has been elected president of the Association of Producers and Distributors of Mexico. Other elected officers are Gregorio Wallerstein, secretary, and Jesus A. Grovas, treasurer.

Reviews

"Shadows of Death"

(*PRC*)

SAM NEWFIELD and Sigmund Neufeld present another Western winner. Old slapstick routines are dragged out and dressed up for Al 'Fuzzy' St. John, who does a slick job in his role, which, for the first time, allows him to carry the picture practically alone. There is no attempt this time to push Fuzzy in the background in favor of Buster Crabbe, and the results are highly pleasing.

The story, which does not bear out its ominous title, has Fuzzy as sheriff, judge and barber in a small town which is about to boom following disclosure of proposed plans for a railroad. Charles King and his band of infamous cohorts arrive on the scene prepared to cash in, but Crabbe, Fuzzy's friend, breaks up King's game and saves the honor of Fuzzy and his town. Edward Hall and Dona Dax carry the slight love interest.

All members of the cast handle their roles with competence under Newfield's direction. George Milton wrote the original screenplay. Neufeld produced.

Running time, 60 minutes. "G."* Release date, March 24.

HELEN MCNAMARA

"The Topeka Terror"

(*Republic*)

Hollywood, Jan. 24

ASSOCIATE producer Stephen Auer and director Howard Bretherton have achieved here a well-paced Western, snugly grounded in historical facts. The cast, headed by Allan Lane, Linda Stirling and Earle Hodgins, is an able one, and the trio of villains, impersonated by Roy Barcroft, Bud Geary and Frank Jacquet, constitutes a mighty convincing menace.

The screenplay, by Patricia Harper and Norman Hall, based on an original by Miss Harper, is laid in Oklahoma at the time of the great land rush. Certain unscrupulous operators, desirous of obtaining the best town site, falsify the records so that the settlers are left homeless. Plenty of shooting takes place before Lane, in the role of a Government investigator, traps the villains and straightens matters out to the satisfaction of all.

Patrons of Hollywood's Hitching Post Theatre, who are connoisseurs of Western drama, received this offering with evident satisfaction.

Running time, 55 minutes. "G."* Release date, not set. THALIA BELL

*"G" denotes general classification.

Davidson to See Film Heads on Opera Stars

James A. Davidson, former Grand National Pictures executive, now president of the William Morris Concert Agency, arrived in Hollywood for conferences with film executives on forthcoming pictures for three concert and opera stars: Lauritz Melchior and Jose Iturbi, at M-G-M, and Rise Stevens, at Paramount.

Davidson will book concert dates day-and-date with the opening of the films.

Fires Destroy Four More Film Houses

Four more fires have completely destroyed theatres. In Jefferson City, Tenn., the Cherokee, operated by Mrs. C. K. Hutton, was destroyed; she plans to rebuild as soon as possible. In Guthrie, Ky., a fire destroyed the Lyric, which was insured and will be rebuilt. Also destroyed were the Auditorium, Tampa, Kan., and the Gem, operated by H. E. Porta, in Richland, Mo.

TVA Lighting to Be Cut

NASHVILLE, Jan. 24.—The Tennessee Valley Authority has announced that all unnecessary outside lighting will be banned in this area effective early next month, despite the fact that most of its power is water-generated and does not require coal.

'Guest' Set for Capitol

Hunt Stromberg's "Guest in the House," which United Artists will release, will open at the Broadway Capitol about Feb. 15, following M-G-M's "The Thin Man Goes Home," which will open today.

ITOA Asks Rank to Meet with Owners

An invitation has been extended by the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York to J. Arthur Rank to meet with its membership during the latter's contemplated visit here in the Spring, from London. Mutual problems will be discussed, if Rank accepts, and it is expected that Rank will also give some details of plans available by then on his acquiring, or eventually building a Broadway "show-window" for his British product. (In a cable from London published in MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday, it was disclosed that Rank would not leave London until the end of the war in Europe.)

Hits House Violations

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 24.—State police commissioner Edward J. Hickey has notified all Connecticut theatre managers that the following safety regulations must be followed: parked cars must not block exits or areas near exits; areas outside exit doors must be free of snow to facilitate safe pedestrian travel. Failure to comply with these rules will result in revocation of theatre licenses, he said.

$310,000 for 'Follies'

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 24.—"Ice Follies of 1945," which has closed a four-week engagement at the 6,500-seat Philadelphia Arena, established a new local box-office record, according to Pete Tyrrell, Arena manager. With tickets scaled from $1.24 to $3.72, and performances nightly, plus Saturday matinees since Christmas night, the show grossed $310,000.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Jan. 24

UNDER a contract he recently signed with Columbia, Marion Parsonnet will write and produce his own scripts for that studio. . . . David O. Selznick has taken an option on Niven Busch's latest novel, "They Dream of Home." . . . Bert Horswell has been signed by Monogram producer Lindsley Parsons to write an original for the next in the "Kitty O'Day" series.

•

Columbia has purchased "Dark Hour," original by Aubrey Wisberg. It will be used as a basis for the fifth in the studio's "Crime Doctor" series. . . . Barry Fitzgerald will play one of the principal roles in B. G. De Sylva's first Paramount production, "The Stork Club." . . . Seven Warner players have had their contracts renewed: Joyce Reynolds, Faye Emerson, Robert Hutton, Robert Arthur, Dorothy Malone, John Miles and Pat Clark.

•

Gregory Peck has been assigned the lead in M-G-M's "The Yearling," which Sidney A. Franklin will produce. . . . David Bruce gets his best role to date with his designation as Deanna Durbin's lead in Universal's "Lady on a Train."

•

M-G-M has signed Ferenc Molnar to write "Daddy Is a Wolf," which Joseph Pasternak will produce; it will be the first Molnar comedy to be written directly for the screen. . . . Republic producer James S. Burkett has signed Saundra Berkova, 11-year-old violinist to a contract. She will make her screen debut in "Tugboat Annie's Son." . . . Frank Faylen has been assigned a featured role in "Masquerade in Mexico," currently shooting at Paramount.

•

Matthew Roulton and Eve Amber have been signed by producer-director Roy William Neill for featured roles in Universal's "Invitation to Death." . . . Roy Rowland will direct "Death in the Doll's House," which Robert Sisk is producing for M-G-M. . . . Arthur St. Clair has joined PRC as a staff writer; his initial assignment is the Ulmer-Chadwick production, "Swamp Man."

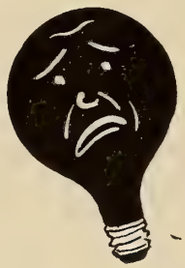
•

Marc Cramer has been assigned a featured role in RKO's "Those Endearing Young Charms." . . . Universal has exercised its option on the services of Kirby Grant and Charles Lamont.

Watch U. A. releases bearing G.C.F. Presents

BROADWAY DARKENED!

"DIMOUT WILL RETURN FEB. 1"—*N. Y. Herald Tribune*



"Oh how I hate the dark!"

"Never a dim-bulb with M-G-M pictures!"

BUT M★G★M NEVER

CAPITOL

"THIN MAN GOES HOME"

Follows 5 Big Weeks "Music For Millions"

MUSIC HALL

"NATIONAL VELVET"

The New All-Time Music Hall Champ

ASTOR

"MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS"

S.R.O. in its 8th Wee

Sensational Everywhe

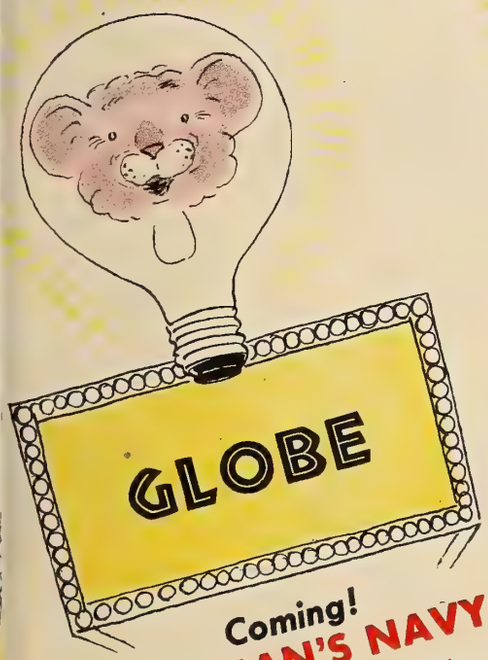
UP AND DOWN BROADWA

Are you set? Still time to join! March of Dimes!—Jan. 25 to 31

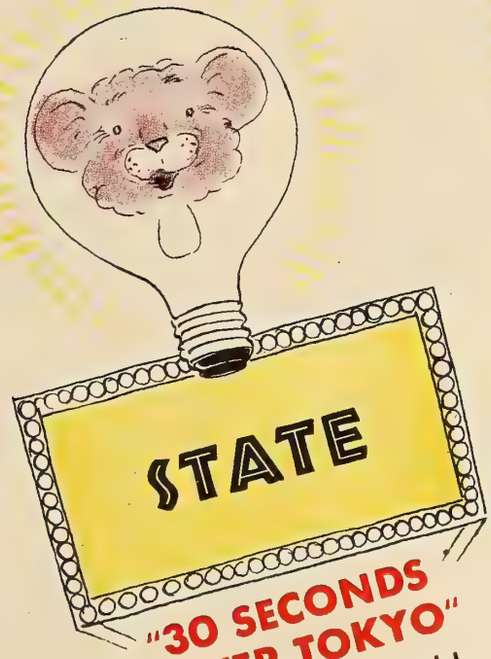
1924 1945 21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP MGM

STOPS SHINING!

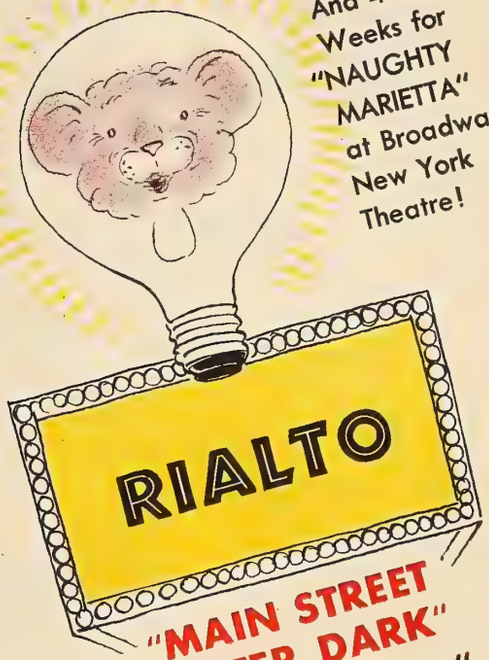
And 4 Big Weeks for "NAUGHTY MARIETTA" at Broadway's New York Theatre!



Coming!
"THIS MAN'S NAVY"
Watch Big Akron, Ohio, World Premiere, Feb. 8th



"30 SECONDS OVER TOKYO"
Held for 2nd Week!
After 5 Big Capitol Weeks



"MAIN STREET AFTER DARK"
"It's a real sleeper," says Variety

—AND ON EVERY MAIN STREET

LIGHT UP WITH LEO of M·G·M

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Dec. 30	LET'S GO STEADY Pat Parrish Jackie Moran June Preisser C—60 mins. (6039)	(Ninth Block) THE THIN MAN GOES HOME William Powell Myrna Loy C—100 mins. (513) (Rev. 11/24/44)		(Special Reissue) THE SIGN OF THE CROSS Fredric March Claudette Colbert D—118 mins. (4432) (Rev. 8/23/44)	THE WHISPERING SKULL (Texas Rangers) O—55 mins.	SHERIFF OF LAS VEGAS 66 mins.—O (3316) (Rev. 1/3/45)	(Second Block) EXPERIMENT PERILOUS Hedy Lamarr George Brent D—91 mins. (510) (Rev. 12/6/44)	(Special Release) WILSON (Color) Alexander Knox Geraldine Fitzgerald D—154 mins. (530) (Rev. 8/2/44)	I'LL BE SEEING YOU Ginger Rogers Joseph Cotten D—85 mins. (Rev. 12/19/44)	CAN'T HELP SINGING (Color) Deanna Durbin Robert Paige Akim Tamiroff M—88mins. (9071) (Rev. 12/14/44)	
Jan. 6	YOUTH ON TRIAL Cora Sue Collins David Reed Eric Sinclair D—59 mins. (6041)	MAIN STREET AFTER DARK Edward Arnold Selena Royle D—57 mins. (514) (Rev. 11/28/44)	ARMY WIVES Elyse Knox Rick Vallin D—67 mins. (414) (Rev.12/5/44)	(Second Block) FRENCHMAN'S CREEK (Color) Joan Fontaine Arturo de Cordova D—113 mins. (4408) (Rev. 9/20/44)			MURDER, MY SWEET Anne Shirley Dick Powell D—95 mins. (508) (Rev. 12/6/44)			NIGHT CLUB GIRL Vivian Austin Edward Norris M—60 mins. (9035) (Rev. 12/8/44)	HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN All-Star Cast M—123 mins. (409) (Rev. 12/5/44)
Jan. 13	EADIE WAS A LADY Ann Miller Joe Besser Hal McIntyre and Orchestra C—67 mins. (6014)	MUSIC FOR MILLIONS Margaret O'Brien Jose Iturbi M—118 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/13/44)	ADVENTURES Of KITTY O'DAY Jean Parker D—63 mins. (420) (Rev. 12/8/44)	MINISTRY OF FEAR Ray Milland Marjorie Reynolds D—84 mins. (4410) (Rev. 10/18/44)		GRISSLY'S MILLIONS Paul Kelly Virginia Grey D—71 mins. (409) (Rev. 1/15/45)	GIRL RUSH C—65 mins (506) (Rev. 10/25/44)		MR. EMMANUEL (British) Felix Aylmer Greta Gynt D—92 mins. (Rev. 1/4/45)	SHE GETS HER MAN Joan Davis William Gargan Leon Errol C—74 mins. (Rev. 1/5/45)	
Jan. 20	I LOVE A MYSTERY Jim Bannon Barton Yarborough Nina Foch D—69 mins. (6024)	BLONDE FEVER Philip Dorn Mary Astor C—69 mins. (516) (Rev. 11/28/44)	JADE MASK Sidney Toler D—66 mins. (417)	THE MAN IN HALF-MOON STREET Nils Asther Helen Walker D—92 mins. (4407) (Rev. 10/17/44)		THE BIG SHOW-OFF Arthur Lake Dale Evans C—70 mins. (410) (Rev.1/16/45)	NEVADA O—62 mins. (509) (Rev. 12/11/44)	(Fifth Block) (Dec. Release) WINGED VICTORY Edmond O'Brien Jeanne Crain D—130 min. (512) (Rev. 11/22/44)		UNDER WESTERN SKIES Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. Leo Carrillo O—57 mins. (9039) (Rev. 1/3/45)	TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT Humphrey Bogart Lauren Bacall D—100 mins. (410) (Rev. 10/11/44)
Jan. 27	SAGEBRUSH HEROES Charles Starrett O—54 mins. (6204)	BETWEEN TWO WOMEN Van Johnson Lionel Barrymore D—82 mins. (518) (Rev. 12/21/44)	THEY SHALL HAVE FAITH Gale Storm C. Aubrey Smith D—83 mins. (Rev. 12/13/44)	AND NOW TOMORROW Loretta Young Alan Ladd D—85 mins. (4406) (Rev. 10/17/44)	HIS BROTHER'S GHOST O—58 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) MARKED FOR MURDER O—56 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) KID SISTER Judy Clark D	THE TOPEKA TERROR Allan Lane Linda Stirling D—55 mins. (464)	THE FALCON IN HOLLYWOOD D—67 mins. (507) (Rev. 12/5/44)	SUNDAY DINNER FOR A SOLDIER Anne Baxter John Hodiak D—86 mins. (513) (Rev. 12/6/44)		THE SUSPECT Charles Laughton Ella Raines Dean Harens D—85 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44)	
Feb. 3	SING ME A SONG OF TEXAS Rosemary Lane Hal McIntyre Orch. M—66 mins. (6221)	NOTHING BUT TROUBLE Laurel and Hardy C—69 mins. (519) (Rev. 12/5/44)	CISCO KID RETURNS Duncan Renaldo O	ONE BODY TOO MANY Jack Haley Jean Parker C—76 mins. (4409) (Rev. 10/18/44)			(Special Release) BELLE OF THE YUKON (International) (Color) Randolph Scott Gypsy Rose Lee Dinah Shore C—84 mins. (583) (Rev. 11/29/44)	(Jan. Release) KEYS OF THE KINGDOM Gregory Peck Thomas Mitchell D—137 mins. (514) (Rev. 12/13/44)		HERE COME THE CO-EDS Abbott and Costello Phil Spitalny and Orch. C	
Feb. 10		THIS MAN'S NAVY Wallace Beery James Gleason D—98 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/4/45)	GUN SMOKE Johnny Mack Brown O—57 mins. (455) (Rev. 1/19/45)	(Third Block) HERE COME THE WAVES Bing Crosby Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts M—97 mins. (4411) (Rev. 12/18/44)	SPELL OF AMY NUGENT (English) Derek Farr D		(Third Block) WHAT A BLONDE Leon Errol Elaine Riley C	THE FIGHTING LADY (Color) (documentary) 61 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/21/44)		HER LUCKY NIGHT Andrews Sisters Martha O'Driscoll M	
Feb. 17	LEAVE IT TO BLONDIE Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C		DILLINGER Elisha Cook Jr. Lawrence Tierney D	DANGEROUS PASSAGE Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4412) (Rev. 12/21/44)	FOG ISLAND Lionel Atwill George Zucco D		THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE Dorothy McGuire Robert Young Herbert Marshall D	THE WAY AHEAD (British) David Niven Raymond Huntley D—115 mins. (511)		THE HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN Boris Karloff John Carradine D—71 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44) THE MUMMY'S CURSE Lon Chaney D—60 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44)	OBJECTIVE, BURMA Errol Flynn D—144 mins. 411)
Feb. 24	THE CRIME DOCTOR'S COURAGE Warner Baxter Hilary Brooke D	(Special Release) 30 SECONDS OVER TOKYO Spencer Tracy Van Johnson D—138 mins. (511) (Rev. 11/14/44)		FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS (Color) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—158 mins. (4413) (Rev. 7/15/43)	HOLLYWOOD AND VINE James Ellison Wanda McKay D		HAVING WONDERFUL CRIME George Murphy Pat O'Brien Carole Landis C			FRISCO SAL Susanna Foster Turhan Bey M	
Mar. 3	A GUY, A GAL AND A PAL Ross Hunter Lynn Merrick Ted Donaldson D	(Special Release) MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS (Color) Judy Garland Margaret O'Brien M—113 mins. (512) (Rev. 11/1/44)	GI HONEY-MOON Gale Storm Peter Cookson D—70 mins.	PRACTICALLY YOURS Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray C—90 mins. (4414) (Rev. 12/15/44)			PAN-AMERICANA Phillip Terry Audrey Long Robert Benchley D	(Feb. Release) A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN Dorothy McGuire Joan Blondell D—128 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/24/45)		I'LL TELL THE WORLD Lee Tracy Brenda Joyce C	
Mar. 10	EVE KNEW HER APPLES Ann Miller William Wright M			DOUBLE EXPOSURE Chester Morris Nancy Kelly D—63 mins. (4415) (Rev. 12/21/44)	THE MAN WHO WALKED ALONE Dave O'Brien Kay Aldridge O		BETRAYAL FROM THE EAST Lee Tracy Nancy Kelly D	HANGOVER SQUARE Laird Cregar Linda Darnell D—77 mins. (516) (Rev. 1/17/45)		SEE MY LAWYER Olsen and Johnson Grace McDonald C	

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama. (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily Review Date.

Film Classics Plans 16mm Branches

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 24.—Plans for the establishment of a 16mm branch in each exchange center and preparations for the post-war period, will be major items on the agenda of Film Classics' distributors, at their first national meeting here on Saturday and Sunday, at the Coronado Hotel.

Approximately 80 per cent of the exchanges will be represented at the meeting, which will also see the formation of a national committee to represent the entire group, and the duties of which will be to contact independent producers to assure a flow of product, and further a policy of acquiring key reissues.

ABP's 7½% Dividend Same as Last Year

LONDON, Jan. 24.—Associated British Pictures today declared an interim dividend of seven and one-half per cent on the ordinary shares of the company, the same as last year. The action was disappointing in financial circles where it was known that the company's revenue has increased and that improvement has resulted from a reorganization of the company's affairs.

Authorative sources declare that a larger final dividend may be anticipated at the end of the company's fiscal year.

Film Companies Buy Air Time on WJZ

Loew's, 20th Century-Fox and RKO have signed contracts for air time on station WJZ, New York outlet of the Blue Network. Loew's bought one station-break announcement weekly for 52 weeks, for film promotions, through Donohue and Coe. Twentieth Century-Fox, through Kayton-Spiero, has bought three additional station-break announcements weekly for 42 weeks and several other periods for "The Fighting Lady" promotions. RKO has purchased several spots for a two-week period, through Foote, Cone and Belding.

$105,000 to Murray In Anti-Trust Suit

(*Continued from page* 1)

to secure good product. Manta is a former operator of the Milo and Nomikos was its booker and buyer. Murray sold his theatre in 1941.

The verdict surprised Film Row, since defense counsel, in closing arguments, reduced demands from all defendants to $40,000. Earlier in the case the judge ruled out evidence of the plaintiff's real estate losses, linked to the closing of the theatre, as well as alleged price fixing contracts.

The case has been in preparation for five years. It is expected to reach the United States Court of Appeals here.

Ideal Pension Plan

William M. Cotton, publisher of Ideal Publishing Corp., publishers of *Movie Life, Movies* and *Personal Romances,* has purchased a pension-insurance plan for all employees of one year's service, the entire cost to be borne by Cotton. Plan provides for an annuity based on salary and length of service, payable upon retirement at 65.

'Tonight and Every Night'

(*Continued from page* 1)

Marc Platt in love with Miss Hayworth, and Janet Blair in love with Platt. He and Miss Blair are killed in an air raid. The theatre is about to close, but does not. Miss Hayworth does her girl companion's number, then decides to stick it out in London while Bowman is assigned to Canadian duty. Their reunion in calmer times is indicated.

Against this story pattern, with its inescapable overtones of tragedy and suffering, is music, dancing and comedy, centered largely around Professor Lamberti of the vaudeville era, as many showmen no doubt will remember.

MISS HAYWORTH is very good, indeed. She shows improvement in her straight dramatic moments and, of course, is completely eye-filling. Miss Blair sings and dances in a fashion that proves a pleasant surprise. Bowman reveals his established competency again. The show girls are *ne plus ultra* and the rest of the small cast of principals, including Philip Merivale, Ernest Cossart, Florence Bates and Leslie Brooks, is solid.

Music-wise, the attraction is a clicker. Appraisals will vary, but perhaps the two outstanding numbers of the six by Sammy Cahn and Julie Styne are the title song, which is a salute to the courage of England and the United Nations, and the beautiful ballet built around the number, "Cry and You Cry Alone."

Production-wise, moreover, this is a job exquisite enough to authorize a genuine salute for the art direction by the group headed by Stephen Gooson; the set decorations by Frank Tuttle; those special effects by Lawrence W. Butler; Jean Louis's gowns and costumes; Rudolph Mate's magnificent color photography, and, not the least, the dance direction of Jack Cole and Val Raset.

The surprise of a fine production, however, is Platt. Recruited from "Oklahoma," he dances in the Paul Draper manner, plus techniques and interpretations of his own. "Terrific," that favorite of all Hollywood words, belongs to him for what he puts on display in this film. He will be heard of again and again and again, and it's proper he should.

In the dual capacity of producer and director, Victor Saville, of course, fits inescapably high into the record of what "Tonight and Every Night" is about. By this one he will be known.

Running time, 91 minutes. "G." * Release, not set.

RED KANN

** "G" denotes general classification.*

Grand Rapids Asks Variety Charter

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Jan. 24.—A group of local film men have petitioned Variety Clubs of America for a charter for a Grand Rapids and Western Michigan unit. Tentative elected officers for the proposed tent are: Jack Stewart, chief barker; Walter J. Norris, first assistant; Grove Willer, second assistant; Leo Robinson, dough guy; Frank A. Kleaver, property master.

The application was addressed to R. J. O'Donnell, national chief barker, at Dallas. In addition to the officers, the application listed the following founders: John D. Locks, George W. Sampson, Howard M. Carter, Emmet Roche, Glenn Wallace, Nama Frank, Ed Lane, Emmet Goodrich, Mark Christeson, Herb Schilds, Stanley Johnson, Morris Frank, Elmer Woods, Roy Taylor, Allen Johnson, William B. Potts, J. M. McKearnan, Henry Carley.

Hagen to Field Meets

R. P. Hagen, manager of Warners' film checking service, left last night for Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Cleveland, to hold conferences with checking supervisors and newly appointed assistant supervisors in those areas. The home office also reported the appointments of R. A. Navarro and W. O. Love as assistants, working out of Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, respectively.

O'Donnell Installs Board

BUFFALO, Jan. 24.—National chief barker Robert J. O'Donnell, here from Dallas, installed the new board of the Variety Club at a dinner and reception here recently.

Geissman Supervises Blumenfeld Territory

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 24.—Clifford E. Geissman, who recently resigned the managership of the Golden Gate Theatre to join Blumenfeld Theatres, here, will take over supervision of the circuit's Southern territory. Blumenfeld recently acquired the Los Angeles Tower and deals for two other houses in that city are pending.

The circuit now operates the United Artists, Orpheum, Esquire and Tivoli in this city, three in Oakland, two in Berkeley, four in Sacramento and two in Stockton.

RFC to Dispose of Excess Equipment

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Some $26,000 worth of photographic equipment, declared surplus by the Government, is now in the hands of the Reconstruction Finance Corp. for disposition, it was disclosed here yesterday.

A report by the RFC on its surplus disposal activities to Dec. 31 showed that most of the equipment, $25,498 worth, consists of aerial cameras, with $583 worth of camera parts and accessories, other than lenses; $55 worth of projection apparatus and enlargers, and $350 worth of processing apparatus.

Delay 'Burma' Showing

Due to delay in delivery of prints resulting from interruption of air express traffic by bad weather, the national tradeshowing of Warner's "Objective, Burma," scheduled for next Monday, has been postponed to Feb. 5. The film will have its world premiere tomorrow at the New York Strand.

$300,515,911, All-Time High Admission Tax

(*Continued from page* 1)

year during which the new levies were in effect (they averaged better than $30,000,000 a month).

However, on Jan. 9, in his annual message to Congress, President Roosevelt warned that lower Government spending in the fiscal year which begins on July 1 will be reflected in a decline in business and in reduced tax collections. In the case of amusements, it was indicated by the budget figures which accompanied the message, the decline in business may run to about 15 per cent from present levels, the Treasury estimating that revenue from the admission tax, other than from roof gardens and cabarets, will drop to $257,700,000 in 1945-46.

December collections, representing November admissions, were the third-highest for the past year, amounting to $31,182,977 against $30,183,455 for the preceding month and $13,048,274 for Dec., 1943, the Revenue Bureau reported.

Half on Broadway

The special report for the Third New York (Broadway) District showed that slightly more than half of the increase in December was collected in that area, where the total reached $4,611,188, against $4,015,458 in November.

The Bureau also reported that box office admissions in the Broadway sector paid taxes of $3,914,573, against $3,505,675 in November; taxes on tickets sold by brokers were $52,653, against $28,690; taxes on tickets sold by proprietors in excess of the established price were $2,770, against $155, and admissions to roof gardens and cabarets, $641,192, against $480,937.

National over-all collections of admission taxes by months, compared with 1943, were as follows:

	1944	1943
January	$16,744,936	$11,728,489
February ...	12,094,184	11,317,101
March	14,893,007	11,874,676
April	14,907,919	13,283,114
May	28,617,078	14,625,614
June	26,240,195	11,109,476
July	31,343,729	15,750,518
August	34,168,118	16,178,305
September...	29,042,668	13,926,347
October	31,097,641	16,499,395
November ..	30,183,454	16,388,863
December ..	31,182,977	13,048,274
Total	$300,515,911	$165,730,177

Watch U. A. releases bearing G.C.F. Presents

Thank You!

GEORGE FREEMAN
Manager, Loew's Poli Theatre, Springfield

HARRY SHAW
District Manager, Loew's New England Theatres

LOU BROWN
Director Publicity & Advertising, Loew's New England Theatres

CHARLES SHAW
Exploitation Representative, United Artists

. . . for your part in the phenomenal business done by "Tomorrow The World" in smashing all Sunday grosses for the past eight months at Loew's Poli, ace New England theatre that plays all the BIG pictures in Springfield!

. . . and indications point to a record week!

TOMORROW-THE WORLD!

Unprecedented!

At the World Premiere engagement, Globe Theatre, New York, the 3rd week's business was greater than the 2nd week! The 4th week was greater than the 3rd! AND THE 5th WEEK IS ALREADY GREATER THAN THE 4th WEEK!

. . . and watch it grow

at the Palace, Cincinnati and the United Artists, San Francisco!

TOP GROSSES THRU U

Lester Cowan presents

Fredric MARCH • Betty FIELD and the sensational SKIPPY HOMEIER in "TOMORROW-THE WORLD!" with Agnes Moorehead • Joan Carroll • Edit Angold • Directed by Leslie Fenton • Based on the Stage Success by James Gow and Arn

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 19 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1945 | TEN CENTS

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Labor Draft Spreads to 2 More States

Pa., N. J., Delaware Hit; N. Y. Considers Plan

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 25.—The modified labor draft compelling non-essential workers to take war jobs or go jobless, which was adopted for labor shortage areas in Pennsylvania yesterday by the War Manpower Commission, today was extended to similar areas in New Jersey and Delaware.

(A spokesman for the New York regional WMC said a survey of non-essential businesses here soon would be conducted with a view toward placing workers in essential industries.)

Allentown, Pa., was the first community where the new order actually

(Continued on page 7)

$1,000,000 in 1st Dimes Day

The industry's 1945 March of Dimes drive opener yesterday poured at least $1,000,000 into the funds of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and its local chapters, the industry drive committee reported here last night. Incomplete reports estimated at least 14,000 theatres are participating, with hundreds having jumped the gun, and collected an additional $500,000 before the opening.

Zero weather in New York yesterday caused the special events committee to call off the Times Square parade and demonstration.

$194,207,628 in War Bonds for Loew

Loew's total sale of war bonds and stamps by theatres and employee and company purchases, totaled $194,207,628, from June 1, 1942 to Dec. 31, 1944. The company bought $57,821,500 of this amount and employees, $21,140,705, plus $6,935,531 in stamps.

Sale to the public through Loew theatres, totaled $92,173,480 in 'E' bonds, and $16,136,412 in 'F' and 'G' bonds.

Walker Renamed for Postmaster General

Washington, Jan. 25.—President Roosevelt today nominated Frank C. Walker for reappointment as Postmaster General. The only member of the Cabinet whose term is limited by law, the Postmaster General serves a statutory four-year term. Walker is head of the Comerford Circuit.

California Relief on Taxation Sought

REDONDO BEACH, Cal., Jan. 25.—In the first legal step to obtain general relief from municipal admission taxes levied in several California towns, Fox West Coast's Strand and Redondo theatres here, have filed a claim with the City Council for a refund of $7,947 in taxes, paid since Oct. 20, 1943. A local ordinance assesses one cent per ticket.

The claim describes the tax as "discriminatory, excessive, unreasonable and in violation of both United States and California Constitutions." It asserts that the ordinance has forced two theatres to "supply approximately 25 per cent of all license fees collected from all business in Redondo."

The circuit's next step, in case the Redondo council denies the claim, will be to file suit in Superior Court, Los Angeles county.

British May Raise Monetary Quota 50%: Silverstone

The British Government has under consideration an increase in the provisions of the monetary law of the Films Act of as much as 50 per cent. Arthur Silverstone, home office representative of 20th Century-Fox's international department, disclosed here yesterday. Silverstone has just returned to the U. S. after a year in London, where he made a survey of the British market for 20th.

Under terms of the act, each American company must make or acquire one British film per 100,000 feet of imports; each must be at least 7,000 feet in length and must each have involved a payment of at least $82,000 in wages to British labor.

Silverstone said 20th-Fox's business

(Continued on page 7)

Davis to Africa to Get Rank Theatres

LONDON, Jan. 25.—John Davis, managing director of Odeon Theatres, Ltd., left here today for Cairo on the first leg of a trip designed to secure theatre outlets for J. Arthur Rank product in Africa and the Near East. His itinerary will extend to Palestine and then to Rhodesia and other parts of South Africa.

With the 'blessing' of the South

(Continued on page 7)

Administration Of WAC Is Hit by Allied

It Should Terminate With War, Board Says

COLUMBUS, Jan. 25.—Martin G. Smith of Toledo was reelected president of Allied States at the closing session of a two-day meeting of the organization's board of directors, highlighted by adoption of a resolution markedly critical of industry War Activities Committee operations and which recommended the termination of the WAC at the end of the war.

Martin G. Smith

Other Allied officers reelected were: Abram F.

(Continued on page 7)

File Suit On Percentage

BOSTON, Jan. 25.—Two actions based on alleged false returns on percentage pictures were filed today in Massachusetts Superior Court by distributors against Thompson Square Theatre Co., and Albert D. Rudenstein, operator of the Capitol, Malden; Capitol, Bridgewater, and the Stone-

(Continued on page 7)

"Objective, Burma"

[*Warner Bros.*]

Hollywood, Jan. 25

THE cold, hard facts of the kind of warfare being waged in the Asiatic theatre unroll with a stark and fierce realism in "Objective, Burma." They are not pretty facts and the attraction which reveals them is not a pretty film. It is entertainment for those who want their brew straight and strong. The squeamish had better look elsewhere.

This reviewer has to report "Objective, Burma" is decidedly up his alley. It is up his alley because it serves once more to re-forge the realities, thereby pounding home, still again, an appreciation that the road is long and tough and unrelenting; that the enemy—this time, the Japanese—is resourceful and competent and cruel. In this light and by such an approach, this film reaches an objective beyond the one offered in its title.

The story is extraordinarily simple and may be told quickly:

General Stilwell has taken his initial beating in the Burmese area. Plans are under way to re-invade. A radar station in the jungle interior must be destroyed in order to block enemy intelligence. A raider group, under command of Errol Flynn, is assigned the job. Dropped by air, the mission is accomplished without casualties. The problem thereafter is to get out of Japanese-overrun territory.

The adventures and the incidents which dot that hazardous and highly

(Continued on page 7)

No Delay on Gov't Consent Decree Brief

Washington, Jan. 25. — A spokesman for the Department of Justice has insisted that the Government's brief in the consent decree proceedings will be ready for submission to decree company attorneys on Feb. 1, the date it is due, despite reports to the contrary.

The brief may not be complete on coverage of all points but it will be adequate for the purpose of the initial moves of which it is a part.

Personal Mention

E. K. O'SHEA, M-G-M Eastern sales manager, and his son, LT. JAMES O'SHEA, will return to New York tonight after a visit to Buffalo.

•

RALPH PIELOW, M-G-M's New York branch manager, has been notified that his son, RALPH, JR., has been seriously wounded in Belgium.

•

LYNN FARNOL, Samuel Goldwyn studio publicity director, will leave Hollywood for New York today.

•

LEONARD PICKER, Columbia producer, arrived in New York from Hollywood yesterday.

•

SAM DEMBOW, JR., of Golden Productions is scheduled to leave here for the Coast on Monday.

•

MARVIN SCHENCK, M-G-M Eastern talent head, will leave for the Coast today.

•

SAMUEL GOLDWYN is expected here from the Coast next Tuesday.

Shotwell Sees Screen Vital to World Peace

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 25.—Defining what he called the "thinking picture" in its relation to the world of today and tomorrow, Dr. James T. Shotwell, State Department consultant, told a War Activities Committee luncheon here today: "We must have a way of security not so dear as the preparation for total war. I want to see the screen become the living literature of the planning being done to save this world. The art of the motion picture is going to move the spirit of mankind far more than radio or the printed word ever can do once we really learn how to use it, and we are learning fast."

Shotwell will spend a month here advising on the production of WAC-Office of War Information films.

Raw Stock Cuts Para. Fourth Block to Four

Paramount is understood to have cut its fourth block to four films, from the usual five or six, presumably because of the raw stock shortage.

The four are: "Bring on the Girls," in color; "Salty O'Rourke"; "The Unseen" and "High Powered."

Para. Sponsors Sachar

Paramount will be one of the three sponsors of the three-times weekly series of 15-minute news commentaries by Dr. A. L. Sachar, noted educator, historian and lecturer on radio station WOR, New York outlet of Mutual.

Koenig Gets 30 Days

Samuel Koenig, owner of the Gloria Theatre, Brooklyn, has been fined $100 and sentenced to 30 days in jail after pleading guilty of violating a safety ordinance by allowing 295 people to stand in the house on Jan. 13.

Zukor, 72, Up in the Air for First Time

Adolph Zukor, now 72, chairman of the board of Paramount Pictures, yesterday took his first airplane trip on his return from Toronto where he attended the 25th anniversary celebration of Famous-Players-Canadian.

Zukor has traveled around the world by almost every conceivable means of transportion, except plane.

WLB Indefinite, So Strike Action Near

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 25.—The War Labor Board's telegram saying an arbitrator would be appointed in the Screen Set Decorators Union-IATSE jurisdictional dispute failed to give his name or when the appointment would occur, with the result that SSD executives will take strike action before next week, a spokesman for the union told MOTION PICTURE DAILY today. Only setting a date for the appointment would prevent the action, he added.

De Mille to Supreme Court in AFRA Fight

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 25.—Cecil B. De Mille stated here today that he would appeal to the Supreme Court from yesterday's Superior Court decision dissolving an order restraining the American Federation of Radio Artists from collecting a $1 political-action assessment.

Stating that AFRA had declared him suspended from the air, De Mille said: "My conception of American citizenship is more important than the large salary involved. If my efforts result in legislatures' passing laws for the protection of American citizens to correct this situation, I shall feel more than repaid."

RCA Sets Up a New Television Company

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 25.—To possibly enter the television network business in the future, RCA has incorporated RCA Television Co., Inc.

RCA's television broadcasting activities are now conducted through National Broadcasting, its subsidiary.

Banshees Honor Baer

The Banshees honored Arthur (Bugs) Baer, King Features columnist on his 25 years with the Hearst organization, at a luncheon at the Waldorf Astoria, here, yesterday, attended by several hundred newspaper, film, radio and other representatives. James J. Walker was toastmaster; entertainment was by Carole Landis, Frank Fay and Danny O'Neil.

Hope to Entertain 900

Bob Hope will entertain 900 officers and enlisted men of the Eastern Defense Command on the "Stage Door Canteen" radio program tonight.

Hirliman Expands His 16mm Holdings

International Theatrical and Television Corp. will expand its 16mm branches from 17 to 30, it was disclosed here yesterday by George Hirliman, president. Hirliman also has purchased the Walter O. Gutlohn Corp., and will retain Harry A. Kapit in an executive capacity, to develop a new television department for ITT, and will also retain the entire Gutlohn personnel, with the addition of Alfred Crown, as vice-president; David E. Weshner, to handle public relations; Carol Weill, director of publicity, and Ann Exelberth and Betty Carol.

Through the acquisition of Gutlohn, ITT now has a film library of over 3,000 subjects.

Hirliman has also acquired Certified Film Distributors, which will function as his sales organization, concentrating on outright sale of prints to subagencies, including department stores, photographic dealers, general industry and Governmental agencies. Kapit, as head of Gutlohn, has appointed Victor Roudin and George Zehrung, former heads of the motion picture bureau of the YMCA, to head the educational division of the company.

International Radio Regulation Urged

American broadcasters must be prepared for the surrender of "a certain modicum of sovereignty" by the U. S. for the more efficient control of radio, Francis Colt de Wolf, chief of the State Department's telecommunications division, told the Institute of Radio Engineers at the Commodore Hotel here last night. An inter-American regulatory body, he said, will be proposed at the Third International Radio Conference at Rio de Janeiro in June, as will an early conference with United Kingdom representatives.

The Institute's annual medal of honor was presented to H. H. Beverage of the Radio Corporation of America for work in the field of antenna design, while the Morris Liebermann memorial prize went to Dr. W. W. Hansen of Stanford University.

Famous International To Release 6 Films

Famous International Film Corp. has been formed here to release foreign films and expects to distribute six in 1945. First release will be the French film, "Dawn Over France," which will open at the World Theatre here. Premiere will be sponsored by representatives of the French Government in the U. S.

WMC Raises McNamee

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Frank L. McNamee, former film exhibitor, and Philadelphia director of the War Manpower Commission, has been named deputy chairman of the WMC, it has been reported by Paul V. McNutt, director. McNamee recently returned from an overseas trip.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Showplace of the Nation • Rockefeller Center
"A SONG TO REMEMBER"
PAUL MUNI • MERLE OBERON
Introducing CORNEL WILDE
A Columbia Picture in TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

ANNE BAXTER JOHN HODIAK
"Sunday Dinner for a Soldier"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
Plus on Stage—Bill Robinson - Maurice Rocco —Delta Rhythm Boys—Louis Armstrong and His Orchestra
BUY MORE BONDS ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

NOW PLAYING ROXY THEATRE
EXTRA! AT LAST...REVEALED!
THE UNKNOWN BATTLE
The NEW MARCH OF TIME
A 20th Century-Fox Release

"FIGHTING LADY"
IN TECHNICOLOR
20th CENTURY-FOX RELEASE
VICTORIA THEATRE
BROADWAY & 46th ST.
MIDNIGHT SHOW EVERY NIGHT

STATE
ON SCREEN
'30 SECONDS OVER TOKYO'
SPENCER TRACY
VAN JOHNSON
ROBT. WALKER
IN PERSON
JEAN PARKER
JOEY ADAMS

20TH CENTURY-FOX PRESENTS
A. J. Cronin's
"THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM"
Continuous Performances
RIVOLI
B'way & 49th St.

BING CROSBY
BETTY HUTTON
SONNY TUFTS
In Person
Woody HERMAN and His Orchestra
ALL-STAR REVUE
"Here Come the Waves"
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett
Raymond Massey
"Woman in the Window"
An RKO Picture

Paul Muni to Produce

Paul Muni has purchased a new play, "Plant No Seed," from A. B. Shiffrin. Muni will produce, direct and star in the show on Broadway. Claire Leonard represented Shiffrin.

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TRADE PRESS THUNDERS WELCOME TO

WALT DISNEY'S

SPECTACULAR NEW SCREEN THRILL!

THE SCREEN MIRACLE OF 1945! *Live*

Motion Picture Daily:

"A wondrous film that delights for every second of its 70 minutes. Disney dazzles with color and sound and delights with comedy and story incident . . . A felicitous combination of live action and animation, it weaves a spell of enchantment. Disney has come up with something truly spectacular, yet wholly sound boxoffice. It will catch the imagination of young and old and will serve as a source of endless enjoyment."

Variety:

"Walt Disney reveals a new form of cinematic entertainment wherein he blends live action with animation in a socko feature production . . . Gay, colorful, resplendent . . . Punchily interspersed are socko songs, surefire for hitdom . . . There's no question that Disney has brought to the screen a technique which is revolutionary and significant."

Boxoffice:

"In 'The Three Caballeros' the past master of animation has planted, production-wise at least, another milestone . . . Carries fantasy to a new and almost unbelievable high . . . Sequence after sequence breathtakingly beautiful . . . Boundless artistry and technical perfection should make the feature a winner."

Motion Picture Herald:

"As in the case of 'Snow White,' the cue for showmen is to shout from their housetops that Disney, The Great, has pioneered again and counsel them to come and see what he has wrought . . . The picture has commanding stature."

Showmen's Trade Review:

"Another full-length Disney feature for the enjoyment of his followers . . . Should do well at the boxoffice . . . A dazzling, swiftly-moving comedy . . . has plenty of entertainment."

Hollywood Variety:

"Contrived with the perfection of a revolutionary new screen technique . . . A swiftly-shuttling, feature-length musical comedy combining live action and animation, potent with song and dance and seductive beauties . . . Will hold any audience spellbound."

Hollywood Reporter:

"Has moments of enchanting beauty, other moments of richly hilarious comedy, and some of the most remarkable technical camera feats ever achieved in a motion picture."

Action wedded to *Animation*
FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE SCREEN!

DISNEY'S TECHNICOLOR

WONDROUS NEW MUSICAL FEATURE IN RIOTOUS

The Three Caballeros

featuring

DONALD DUCK · *Gandering the girls again!*

JOE CARIOCA · *That Jiving Jitterbird!*

PANCHITO · *The Cocky Mexican Casanova!*

and, in the flesh,

AURORA MIRANDA
Brazil's great singing and dancing star

DORA LUZ
Mexico's Sweetheart of Song

CARMEN MOLINA
Sensational star from South of the Border

GALA NATIONWIDE PREMIERE SET FOR FEB. 22ND!

NOVELTY · COMEDY · BEAUTY · and THRILL!

© W.D.P.

nationally advertised to

22,655,121

circulation

That's the coverage in big national magazines with full page ads in full color or in black and white,

LIFE	Dec. 25th 4,040,300
LIBERTY . .	Jan. 20th 1,262,296
LOOK	Feb. 6th 1,895,265
SAT. EVE. POST . . .	Jan. 27th 3,403,674
COSMOPOLITAN .	Feb. 2,062,221
ENTIRE FAN LIST . . .	March 7,456,365
GOOD HOUSEKEEPING	2,535,000

On the air every day and every night—all the biggest stars and orchestras broadcasting "YOU BELONG TO MY HEART"—"THE THREE CABALLEROS"—"BAIA"—"MEXICO" "THE CACTUS POLKA" and others of the sixteen great song numbers in the picture!

RELEASED THROUGH RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.

Administration Of WAC Is Hit by Allied

(Continued from page 1)

Myers, chairman and general counsel; W. L. Ainsworth, treasurer; Roy E. Harrold, secretary, and P. J. Wood, recording secretary.

The Allied board, while paying tribute to the accomplishments of WAC and the contributions of independent theatres to those accomplishments, criticized several administrative phases of WAC in the resolution adopted today.

Asserting that it is the duty of the board (Allied's) to point out that the "inner councils of WAC are not representative of the industry as a whole," the resolution goes on to say: "The authorities and duties of several (WAC) committees and officers have not been defined or prescribed; that many of the most important decisions, and the selection of chairmen of the War Loan and other campaigns, have been made by two or three individuals without reference to or consultation with members of supposedly responsible committees."

Goes Beyond Purpose

"The board also feels," the Allied resolution continues, "that it should express the view that WAC goes far beyond its original purpose when functioning as above described. It names individuals familiar with conditions in only a single territory to represent and speak for the entire industry with reference to manpower and material shortages, fuel conservation and other matters not within the original province of the Committee."

"In view of changed conditions indicating the possible prolongation of the war," the resolution said, "the board is constrained to recommend that the Committee can better serve the industry and better exemplify the principles we are all striving to defend and maintain, if the organization's responsibilities and functions were clearly defined and its affairs conducted along representative and democratic lines. It is also the feeling of the board that the WAC, created for the war emergency, will have no reason for continued existence after the termination of that emergency."

War Pledge Renewed

The resolution asserts, however, that the Allied board "pledges its continued and loyal support (to WAC) on all matters pertaining to the war effort."

The board removed the limitation making it compulsory to hold future meetings in the territory of an Allied unit. The location of the next meeting was not set, but it may possibly be held in Dallas. No action was taken on the report covering new sources of product, Abram F. Myers, board chairman and general counsel, pointing out that the subject will remain academic as long as the raw stock situation remains acute.

The committee on 16 mm. competition will continue its investigation but that subject is not considered as serious now as it may become later on, it was indicated. Don Rossiter of Indiana was added to the membership of the committee. Members of all other committees were reelected and Nathan Yamins was added to the executive committee for a one-year term. M. A. Rosenberg withdrew from the Caravan committee and was not replaced. Continuation of the Caravan committee was approved.

A report was presented by the committee on the serial numbering of tickets, of which H. A. Cole is chairman. Cole was authorized to make representations on the subject to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, offering a plan which would not affect tax collections but which would make blind checking more difficult.

Skouras, Connors in Allied Board Parley

COLUMBUS, Jan. 25.—Spyros Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president, and Tom J. Connors, vice-president in charge of distribution, attended a closed session of the Allied States board of directors here last night, reportedly to discuss company playing terms and policies on specific pictures which have been the subject of independent exhibitor criticism. Neither issued any statement.

Their appearance was at the invitation of the Allied board and, it was indicated here, other company heads and sales executives may be invited to appear at subsequent Allied meetings in the event similar mutual problems should arise in the future.

"Objective, Burma"

(Continued from page 1)

dangerous course through swamp and wild animal terrain make up the bulk of the film. Finally, Flynn brings his decimated ranks to a hilltop, so ordered there by plane-to-ground radio, and there he and his men wait. Japanese patrols attack and are repulsed, but the indication is clear such overwhelming odds cannot be long resisted. Relief and rescue come with the invasion, spearheaded by paratroopers.

The most gripping portions of a gripping film are devoted to the manhunt. It follows the small American band through impenetrable underbrush with its unknown and unheralded dangers, its ambushes and its hazards. In these stretches, the picture is almost entirely devoid of dialogue. Only the shrill chatter of monkeys, the terrifying grunts and growlings of forest beasts—and awful silences—punctuate the screen. The dramatic result achieves great tenseness and a grim breathlessness which never relents. It turns out to an audience experience on the exhausting side. Highly arresting, as well, is the detailing of raider tactics and the techniques of jungle warfare.

There is no romance. The tender sex is alluded to in comedy lines placed on the lips of George Tobias; they furnish counterpoint to an unrelieved drama. Performances are uniformly good from Flynn, William Prince, Tobias, James Brown, John Alvin, Warner Anderson, Stephen Richards, Dick Erdman and others. Henry Hull, as the war correspondent, is not always believable, and some of the dialogue handed him does not help. The attraction, moreover, is longer than it need be for the ground it covers.

Essentially, however, these become minor carpings, for "Objective, Burma" has power, drama and purpose. It is quite a film which Raoul Walsh directed for producer Jerry Wald from an original by Alvah Bessie and a script by Ranald MacDougall and Lester Cole. Some of James Wong Howe's camera effects are particularly noteworthy, and Franz Waxman's music is dynamic and drama-heightening.

Running time, 144 mins. "G."* Release date, Feb. 17.

RED KANN

*"G" denotes general classification.

Premiere of 'Navy' Is Set for Akron

M-G-M has completed plans for the world premiere of "This Man's Navy" at Loew's Theatre, Akron, on Feb. 8. Charles C. Deardourff, exploiteer, has been working on the promotion with Charles Raymond, district manager; A. D. Seawright, secretary to Mayor Charles E. Slusser of Akron; Frank Henson, theatre manager, and Hugh Allen, the film's technical advisor.

Wallace Beery, who is starred, will make personal appearances and visit war plants, hospitals, the Goodyear Rubber plant, and make a number of broadcasts.

New Percentage Suit Filed by Distributors

(Continued from page 1)

ham, at Stoneham, all Massachusetts.

Complaints allege defendants gave "intentionally false and inaccurate statements" of gross admission receipts for film rentals due on various percentage pictures, and that the exhibitors allegedly induced checkers to help them falsify reports. It is further charged that it was the exhibitors' purpose to obtain lower terms of payment on future flat and percentage rentals.

Complaint asks an injunction to prevent altering or disposing of theatre records pending an audit, permission to make such an audit, and judgment for alleged unpaid balance due, with interest. Eight of distributors filed in the first action, and 20th-Fox, Loew's, Warners, Universal and Paramount are plaintiffs in the suit against Rudenstein.

Labor Draft Spreads To 2 More States

(Continued from page 1)

went into effect, designed to fill 1,000 vacancies in essential war industries now employing 50,000, and regional director Paul Lewis said preparatory steps had been taken in other Group 1 and Group 2 shortage areas.

Under the plan, the employment ceilings of non-essential industries are reduced. The workers thus released are offered war jobs. If they refuse without valid reasons, the U. S. Employment Service denies them job referrals.

The current action in the East is basically similar to that taken Jan. 10 by director William Parkinson in the Omaha area, where a 10 per cent cut-back in employment ceilings was ordered, accompanied by a 10-day embargo on the hiring of all male employes. Theatres and film offices were affected along with other local businesses.

British May Raise Monetary Quota 50%

(Continued from page 1)

had doubled in Britain since the war's inception, with a 40 per cent increase registered in the last two years. Confirming MOTION PICTURE DAILY's story of last Dec. 29, Silverstone announced that Marcel Hellman, independent British producer, and 20th-Fox will jointly produce in England "Wanted for Murder," from the stage play, for world distribution.

Almost 5,000 British theatres are operating at present, Silverstone reported, with several hundred having been shut down or destroyed. Where distributors formerly placed films in release within two weeks in the London area, they are rationing their raw stock and, by using fewer prints, are taking three weeks to put them in circulation. British producers, including the smaller studios, are currently turning out about 80 films a year, Silverstone said.

Many difficulties are encountered in exploitation; advertisements are limited to single insertions in newspapers, displays on buses and subways and some poster stands, and only a limited supply of accessories is available.

Silverstone is scheduled to return to London in about six weeks.

20th-Fox to Produce In Mexico: Silverstone

Twentieth-Fox has acquired a half interest in Producciones Intermericanas, a Mexican studio, to produce films in that country, Murray Silverstone, 20th-Fox foreign distribution vice-president, announced here yesterday. First film, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 3, will be "Cantaclaro," starring Tito Guizar and Esther Fernandez. "Seventh Heaven" is expected to follow, he said.

At the same time, Silverstone reported that the company is dubbing in Spanish in New York, "Keys of the Kingdom" and "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," using M-G-M's dubbing facilities. At least half of 20th's program will be dubbed in Spanish, Silverstone said.

Silverstone revealed that distributors are considering joint dubbing of pictures in Portuguese.

Davis to Africa to Get Rank Theatres

(Continued from page 1)

African government, Davis hopes to obtain an 'association' for Rank in the ownership of an existing circuit or, as is more likely, secure building sites for new houses. Also explored will be the possibility of making pictures in those areas, a project for which local interests are pressing enthusiastically.

Meanwhile, E. T. Carr, another Rank representative, is in Paris and hopes to finalize, at any moment, a deal for Rank's association with a major French circuit. This project, tentatively consummated in the last days of 1944, was reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 4.

Exhibitors See 'Song'

Several hundred local exhibitors and metropolitan circuit heads were present last night at the New York premiere of Columbia's "A Song To Remember," at Radio City Music Hall.

NEW GLORY FOR THE AMUSEMEN WORLD! NEW GLORY FOR WARNERS

This morning at 8:45

WORLD PREMIERE AT THE N.Y. STRAND OF OBJECTIVE BURMA!

Jack L. Warner, *Executive Produc*

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 20 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1945 TEN CENTS

Newsreels Get 8,000,000 Ft. More Raw Film

Cut Now Is Reduced to Only 1,000,000 Feet

The newsreels now face a cut of less than 1,000,000 feet in their raw stock War Production Board allocations for the current quarter, instead of the original 9,000,000 feet cut "suggested" when the industry's advisory committee met with WPB officials in Washington several weeks ago, it was learned here at the weekend with the return of George J. Schaefer, chairman of the War Activities Committee and industry liaison with the WPB from Washington,

(*Continued on page 7*)

White-Collar Raises Asked

The United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO—representing 3,000 film home office 'white-color' workers, and 52,000 in other fields, has reiterated its demand for widespread upgrading of 'white-collar' salaries, the elimination of the Little Steel Formula, the termination of the 'wage bracket' system and the establishment of a 65-cent-an-hour minimum pay rate as necessary to 'white-

(*Continued on page 7*)

WB Stockholders Annual Meet Feb. 20

Warner Bros.' annual stockholders meeting has been set for Feb. 20 at the corporate office of the company in Wilmington, according to a notice sent to stockholders on Friday by Robert W. Perkins, WB secretary.

Only business scheduled at present

(*Continued on page 6*)

Films Not Affected By Freight Embargo

Washington, Jan. 28.—The 72-hour embargo placed by the railroads on the carrying of all except war freight does not affect film prints, which are shipped by express.

Postwar to Bring Pre-fabrication

Fox West Coast Theatres has developed an idea for the erection of pre-fabricated theatres with steel walls, it was learned here at the weekend. When the manpower and materials situations ease, the circuit plans to proceed with the construction.

It is understood that the chief advantage of this type of construction is the mobility offered when anticipated population shifts occur.

MGM Series Aims at Concert-Opera Fans

M-G-M will make a group of experimental shorts dealing with classical music, both symphonic and operatic, in an attempt to interest a public of 15,000,000 concert and opera-goers, and to encourage more single bills with strong shorts. The company aims to avoid mistakes of the past in classical-music shorts, by having a definite reason for the introduction of an aria or portion of a symphony.

Entitled "Musical Masterpieces," the first one will feature three short symphonic sketches; the second, "Mr. and Mrs. Opera At Home," will deal with backstage background of a major opera house. Carlos Ramirez and Lucille Norman are already under contract for the second, while Franco Perulli, Norina Greco, Josephine Tuminia and Hilde Reggiani have been contracted to appear in others.

The shorts will be produced by Jerry Bressler, and directed by Sam Lee, with Sam Baerwitz as associate executive.

Walsh Insists That NLRB, Not WLB Settle Coast Fight

The IATSE intends to stand fast in its demand that the question of jurisdiction over the Hollywood studio set decorators be submitted to the National Labor Relations Board, and not the War Labor Board, for the fixing of the proper bargaining union and for the designation of a NLRB collective bargaining representative, Richard F. Walsh, IATSE international president, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here, in discussing the pending strike by the Screen Set Decorators union on the Coast.

Meanwhile, in Hollywood, the imminent strike of the decorators was averted when the WLB telegraphed from Washington that an arbitrator empowered to set-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Grosses Dip 5-20% As Nation Freezes

Heavy snowfalls and freezing weather of the past several weeks in many sections of the nation, have caused a drop of from five to 20 per cent in theatre grosses compared to a similar period last year, national circuit executives and distribution home offices reported at the weekend.

Areas notably affected have been the Northwest, Middle West and the East. Many patrons who would normally attend theatres, have holed up due to impossible road conditions, extending even into downtown areas of some key cities.

48 Arbitration Cases, New Low, Filed in 4th Year

With negotiations pending for a revised consent decree, arbitration complaints filed under the decree will hit a new all-time low of 48 in the fourth year, ending Wednesday, of arbitration operations under the American Arbitration Association.

Filing of arbitration complaints in the 31 tribunals has declined steadily since the first decree year of 1941, when 148 complaints were registered, followed by 116 in 1942 and 83 in 1943.

Of 398 arbitration cases filed in the four years, 287 have involved clearance, 242 were some-run, 21 were designated run and the remaining 48 were combinations of two or all three of the above-mentioned complaints.

Exhibitors emerged victorious in 160 of the awards handed down, with distributors winning 99 dismissals. One hundred and seven cases were withdrawn, indicating that exhibitors had obtained some relief before hearings. There are now 32 cases pending before the tribunals.

Of 105 awards appealed by either exhibitor, distributor or intervenor, before the appeal board in New York, 31 decisions were affirmed, 45 modified and 26 were reversed.

Sixty-four cases were filed in New York, the largest total in any city.

Marquee Light Restrictions Eased by WPB

N. Y. Appeal Granted on Public Safety Grounds

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—Restrictions on theatre marquee lighting under the "brownout" order which goes into effect Thursday are not to be permitted to conflict with public safety, officials of the Utilities Office of the War Production Board said at the weekend.

This policy was expressed in the disclosure that an appeal by the City of New York from a number of the provisions of the Jan. 15 order, including that which limited marquee lighting to 60 watts, had been granted and greater illumination than provided for in the order may be permitted by the War Production Board District Office in cases where the police commissioner certifies it to be

(*Continued on page 6*)

Theatre Rent Uncontrolled

The new New York law to regulate and stabilize commercial rentals at a level of 15 per cent above the maximum charged March 1, 1943, does not apply to theatres, in the opinion of Samuel Spring, theatrical attorney, who has been studying the law.

However, Spring told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that certain features of the act are so loosely drawn as to warrant some doubt whether theatres

(*Continued on page 3*)

Theatres Ordered To Conserve Coal

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—Exhibitors over a wide area from the Northern counties of Virginia to New England and West as far as the Mississippi, may find themselves temporarily deprived of coal as a result of the un-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Reviewed Today

Review of "What a Blonde" appears on page 7; "Her Lucky Night," page 10.

Personal Mention

MALCOLM KINGSBERG, RKO vice-president and treasurer, left New York at the weekend on a brief vacation.

•

SI SEADLER, M-G-M's advertising manager, will return today from Charleston, N. C., where he and his wife visited their son, PVT. STEPHEN SEADLER, at Fort Bragg over the weekend.

•

HAROLD RODNER of the Warner Bros. executive staff has been named an honorary life member of the Projectionists Square Club 784 of Greater New York.

•

ARTHUR SACHSON, assistant general sales manager for Warners, has returned to New York from a three-week tour of the Western territory.

•

TOM GRADY, M-G-M field auditor, has returned from Philadelphia and Washington. He will visit Boston and New Haven next.

•

TOMMY FARRELL, M-G-M salesman here, is recuperating at home from injuries suffered in a weekend automobile accident.

•

NORMAN ELSON, vice president of Trans-Lux Theatres Corp., will leave for Washington today.

•

JOHN W. MANGHAM, president of Film Classics, left Atlanta at the weekend for St. Louis.

•

SPYROS SKOURAS, president of 20th Century-Fox, has arrived in Hollywood from New York.

•

JOSEPH H. MOSKOWITZ will leave Hollywood for New York tomorrow on the Superchief.

•

R. M. SAVINI, president of Astor Pictures, is scheduled to return from Atlanta today.

Coe Will Speak in Pittsburgh Today

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 28.—Charles Francis Coe of the MPPDA will address the 20th Century Club here today, on the subject of how drama has developed in the film industry's 50 years. Tomorrow he will speak before the Advertising Club of Washington, on "Movies At War."

Coe's adresses will be made to audiences of more than 500 in both cities, comprised of civic, religious, club and educational leaders, as well as film personnel.

Dolid on Tour

I. F. Dolid, supervisor of Warner exchanges, left at the weekend for a branch office meeting in the recently designated Southern and Southwestern districts. His first stop on the two-weeks tour will be St. Louis, followed by Dallas, Oklahoma City, Memphis, New Orleans, Atlanta and Charlotte.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

RENEWED agitation for the elimination of double features is to be encountered at every turn these days as the seriousness of the impending raw stock regulations of the War Production Board begins to be understood in all branches of the industry. The charge that duals constitute wanton waste in a period of dire scarcity, and should be prohibited forthwith, has been made so often in some industry circles that it already sounds like a chant.

Having in mind the fact that, under the new raw stock regulations, some theatres will not be able to obtain prints of pictures they want badly and some companies will not be able to make or distribute all of the product that may have been included in schedules prepared earlier, it would seem incongruous that many theatres will continue to offer two features on each and every program. It is estimated that 15 per cent of the total amount of raw stock which is to be taken from the industry could be saved through the elimination of double features. Is that saving worth the dislocation in operations and revenue of independent companies, producers and theatres which rely upon duals for their bread-and-butter business? We think not.

•

First of all, the producers and distributors of the bulk of the product which ultimately becomes the second feature of a program will be taking their reduction in raw stock along with all other companies. In several outstanding instances, the cut for such producers and distributors will be far more drastic than that of their larger contemporaries. Is it not enough that they sacrifice as much or more, relatively, as the latter? Or should they be ordered out of business completely? That would be the effect of a wartime ban on double features, for neither their operations nor their finances are geared to switch overnight to the production of features which could compete, picture for picture, with the product of larger companies.

Thus, it appears reasonable to state that raw stock could be saved by prohibiting double features because, by that means, certain valid users of raw stock would be eliminated. And who would benefit? About 4,000,000 of the 27,000,000 feet per quarter to be taken away from the industry would be spared. Apportioned among the remaining companies, would it be vital to any of them? Or would the industry get it, in any event? And what would be the effect of a double feature ban on the several thousand theatres that, for whatever reason, find duals a business necessity?

•

While it may be argued, and frequently is, that double features are wasteful, unshowmanly and perhaps even in the way of being a pimple on the proboscis of the industry, it is difficult to believe that the problem they present is to be solved fairly or finally by making a wartime casualty of them to ease, however lightly, a different wartime problem.

A tactic of that kind is too much like the attempt of some exhibition principals to indict producers-distributors and first run theatres for allegedly creating an artificial product shortage, while the exhibition elements which those principals represent constitute most of the theatres which maintain the double feature policy, the proclaimed product shortage notwithstanding. Double features are the symptoms of several ailments. Sic-ing the WPB on them, treating them like wartime saboteurs, will not effect a permanent cure and, as has been indicated, will not result in any appreciable saving of raw stock. No more, certainly, than is consumed by trailers for this or that worthy cause having nothing to do with the economics of the industry, least of all with the life or death of any of its component parts.

It seems to us that, before any one again advocates in the current raw stock crisis a death sentence for any member of the industry in good standing, whether a last run theatre or an unpretentious peddler of horse-operas, he should pause in the midst of his extra-curricular work for "causes" and ask: "Is this trailer really necessary?" Perhaps an equivalent result could be achieved without it. And lest we be misinterpreted, we emphasize that no reference is being made to commercial trailers, as essential and valuable an advertising media for product and theatres as any other type of advertising.

New FCC Frequency Briefs Due Feb. 28

Washington, Jan. 28.—Broadcasters and others interested in the proposed new allocation of frequencies announced by the Federal Communications Commission, Jan. 16, will be given an additional two weeks in which to file briefs outlining their views.

The Commission has announced that the date for oral argument will be deferred from Feb. 14, to Feb. 28, and that the time for the filing of briefs would be correspondingly extended.

Film War-Loan Plea Reaches 20 Millions

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—J. Edward Shugrue, director of the motion picture and special events section of the War Finance Division reports that preliminary meetings have been held with various branches of the Armed Forces to arrange for special 16mm. short subjects and trailers for use during the Seventh War Loan, scheduled for May. "There is every reason to believe that the films which will be produced and made available to the 16mm. industry for the Seventh War Loan will be the most effective to date," said the statement.

Merriman H. Holtz, motion picture consultant to the War Finance Division stated that, "Reports on the use of 16mm. films in the Sixth War Loan indicate that the audience of 10,000,000 in the Fifth War Loan was more than doubled."

Unity Council Will Honor Ullman

The Common Council for American Unity tonight will honor Frederic Ullman, Jr., president of Pathe News and producer of the "This Is America" series, distributed through RKO, for his work in behalf of promoting tolerance.

J. Edgar Nathan, president of the Borough of Manhattan, will present Ullman with an 'Award of Merit' in ceremonies at Town Hall. Following the presentation there will be a special screening of "New Americans," recent "This Is America" release depicting the work being done by the National Refugee Service.

Army Asks M-G-M To Advance Wac Film

M-G-M has advanced the release of "Keep Your Powder Dry," Lana Turner feature dealing with the Women's Army Corps, at the request of Army officials, so that the film can be synchronized with the Army's Wac recruitment drive.

The picture will be tradeshown on Feb. 21; it will open at the Capitol, New York, following the run of "Guest In the House," the film that will follow the present Capitol occupant, "The Thin Man Goes Home."

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McCormick Sets 3 National Campaigns

National campaigns on three new RKO productions have been set by S. Barret McCormick, director of advertising-publicity. "Pictures named for all-out campaigns, definitely the most extensive in the company's history," said McCormick, are: "The Three Caballeros," Walt Disney color production, in which Disney reveals a new process which combines the use of cartoon characters and backgrounds on the same screen with "live" talent personalities; "The Enchanted Cottage," starring Dorothy McGuire and Robert Young, and "Murder, My Sweet," starring Dick Powell, Anne Shirley and Claire Trevor.

S. Barret McCormick

Spearheading the campaign is "The Three Caballeros," which will have its New York premiere at Broadway's Globe Theatre next Saturday. Magazine advertising on this production started in *Life* magazine on Christmas Day as an advance build-up, with 21 additional magazines featuring campaigns.

The campaign for "The Enchanted Cottage" will run in 21 publications, while "Murder, My Sweet," campaigns have been set for 23.

Corfield to Produce Pictures for Rank

LONDON, Jan. 28.—John Corfield will produce a feature series at the Worton Hall Studio for release through General Film Distributors, Ltd., under an agreement announced here at the weekend by J. Arthur Rank.

First of the series will be "Bedelia," by Vera Gaspary, author of "Laura." Corfield hopes to begin filming in May, but the Board of Trade reports that this will be impossible in view of the present condition of the studio and equipment.

Corfield bought the Worton Hall plant for a reputed $640,000, several months ago, in partnership with Sam Smith, managing director of British Lion Films, after it had been turned down by Rank as being too small to fit in with his plans. Situated in an Upper Thames suburb, it was the scene of some of the earliest motion picture experiments here.

25 'Co-op' for 'Canteen'

BALTIMORE, Jan. 28.—Twenty-five neighborhood houses here have joined in a cooperative campaign, involving newspaper advertising, radio and other promotional activities, for their bookings of Warner's "Hollywood Canteen." First of a series of page ads will break on Sunday, Feb. 11, to be followed by two other advertisements on Feb. 14 and 18. Radio time will be spotted in the same week.

In addition, the theatres are cooperating in the purchase of advertising and exploitation accessories above their usual budgets.

Theatres Not Included In State Rent Control

(*Continued from page* 1)

should be included. But it is Spring's opinion that section two of the law, which excludes stores and offices from the rental ceiling, applies to theatres as well. He said the terms used in section two are sufficiently ambiguous to allow no final conclusion until a test case is made and a decision is handed down by the State. Terms used in section two, under which theatre property might be construed to fall, include "commercial space," defined as "any space used or occupied for commercial purposes in any city, other than space used or occupied as a store or office."

Also, "commercial purposes" are defined as "the manufacture, sale, resale, processing, reprocessing, displaying, storing, handling, garaging, or distribution of personal property." In this case, it could be argued that displaying of personal property would include theatres, since they display films, which are the personal property of the various companies.

The definition of a "store" says that it is "any space predominantly used or occupied by a tenant for the sale of personal business at retail, or the rendition of services in the ordinary course of business, provided that such rental space shall also include space for the conduct of such business on the street floor or level." Here, again, theatres could be said to be "stores," under this classification, Spring explained.

This emergency measure will continue until July 1, 1946. If it should be decided that theatres are included in the act, then no landlord can raise theatre rents more than 15 per cent over March 1, 1943, and no theatre operator can be ejected upon expiration of his lease, provided he will pay 15 per cent rental in excess of what he paid on March 1, 1943. New York City alone has some 700 theatres, many company owned, which have nothing to fear from this bill, but hundreds of theatres in the city and state have leases which will expire prior to July 1, 1946, and they could, upon the caprice of a landlord, be ejected, unless they come under the meaning of the act.

New York is the first state to pass a law of this nature, and it is expected that other laws will be set before legislatures in other states in the near future. While Albany counsel admit they did not intend theatres to be included, they also admit that a court decision in some test case will be necessary before a final determination can be made.

If theatres are determined not to be included in the law by some future court decision, any landlord may eject the operator on the termination of his lease, or raise his rent exhorbitantly. A theatre which pays rental based on a proportion of its gross or net, if included in the law, would continue to do so, but not in excess of 15 per cent of the top rental paid prior to March 1, 1943. Newly erected theatres or theatres replacing those destroyed by fire, would be considered outside the scope and purpose of the act, according to legal opinion.

Columbia to Expend 25% More for Ads

Columbia will increase its advertising budget 25 per cent this year compared to last, it was announced Friday at the concluding session of a three-day sales meeting of district and branch managers at the Hotel Warwick. The company's trade advertising this year is said to be the heaviest in its history.

Columbia will expend $500,000 in direct-to-the-public advertising for "A Song to Remember." An appreciable sum has already been invested in advance advertising through national and fan magazines and newspapers. Advertising for actual engagements, the company said, will follow the same pattern used for the New York premiere at the Music Hall, concentrating on radio, newspapers, outdoor and subway advertising.

Ladd, Lake to Capital

Alan Ladd and Veronica Lake will attend the President's Birthday Ball in Washington tomorrow. Subsequently, Ladd and his wife, Sue Carroll, will be in New York for 10 days, Ladd to participate in promotions for his "Salty O'Rourke."

Abandon 'Yorkshireman'

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 28.—RKO announced at the weekend the abandondonment of "The Flying Yorkshireman" because of the enormous production cost involved.

Republic Foreign Sales Are Up 25%

"Republic has registered an overall increase in its foreign business of between 25 to 30 per cent over last year," Morris Goodman, president of Republic Pictures International Corp., reported at the weekend. Goodman recently returned from a four-month trip to Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Puerto Rico and Cuba.

James A. Fitzpatrick has completed shooting on Republic's first film produced in Mexico, "Song of Mexico," at the new RKO studio in Mexico City, Goodman said. The film will be distributed on a worldwide basis with an English version in addition to Spanish, he said. Four other bi-lingual films are slated to be produced by the Fitzpatrick unit this year, Republic's foreign sales head stated.

Republic plans to expand in South America, having recently established its own branches in Colombia and Peru, Goodman said. Although a strong desire exists in South America for considerable new theatre construction, it will not manifest itself in much actual building until transportation and material situations improve, he said. There is some building going on, however, in Venezuela, Argentina and Mexico.

The company plans to establish its own branches in Europe when feasible, Goodman said. He will survey that market when transportation is available. British-Lion Films releases for Republic in Britain.

Reagan Opens Coast Sales Meet Today

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 28.—First of a series of nine district sales meetings to be conducted by Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, and other home office executives, with sales forces in the field will get under way at the St. Francis Hotel here tomorrow.

Reagan, George A. Smith, Western division manager; Robert M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director, and Claude Lee, director of public relations, are due here today from Hollywood after a week of conferences at the studio with Y. Frank Freeman, Henry Ginsberg and other studio executives.

Reagan's studio visit and his subsequent tour of the nine district sales headquarters are his first since assuming his present position. In line with Office of Defense Transportation orders, Reagan is holding the series of district meetings rather than a national sales convention.

In conjunction with each of the district sessions, Reagan has scheduled luncheons or other get-togethers with local exhibitors to discuss industry matters of mutual interest.

In addition to the home office executives attending the San Francisco meeting will be: Del Goodman, Los Angeles district manager, and branch managers C. J. Bell, Los Angeles; H. Neal East, San Francisco; Herbert Kaufman, Seattle; James A. Clark, Portland, and salesmen and head bookers of the four exchanges.

A luncheon for local exhibitors will be held at the San Francis Hotel here on Tuesday.

Subsequent meetings will be held as follows: Denver, Brown Palace Hotel, Thursday, Feb. 1; Kansas City, Hotel Muehlebach, Monday, Feb. 5; Dallas, Baker Hotel, Thursday, Feb. 8; Chicago, Palmer House, Monday, Feb. 12; Cleveland, Wednesday, Feb. 14; New York, Tuesday, Feb. 20; Philadelphia, Thursday, Feb. 22, and Atlanta, Friday, March 9.

Division Managers George A. Smith, Western; James J. Donohue, Central, and William Erbb, Eastern, will accompany Reagan to the district meetings in their respective territories.

Republic-CFI to Bowl

Republic Pictures-Consolidated Film Industries, Inc., will meet the Grumman Aircraft 'Hellcats' in a bowling match at the Grumman Plant in Farmingdale, L. I., Wednesday. The Republic-CFI team consists of Martin Pirnat, Fred Habeck, Peter Andrich, Tony Morro, and Al Lyons and Ted Gaski, reserve.

Watch U. A. releases bearing G.C.F. Presents

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PRESIDENT

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ABE MONTAGUE COLUMBIA PICTURES CORP

DELIVER =729 SEVENTH AVE NYK=

WE CONSIDER HARRY COHN AND COLUMBIA PICTURES PRODUCTION A SONG TO REMEBER THE FINEST MOTION PICTURE OF ITS KIND EVER MADE NOT ONLY IS IT A SUPERB PRODUCTION BUT NOW HAS PROVEN TO BE A RECORD BREAKER AT THE BOX OFFICE. THE PICTURE OPENED ITS AMERICAN PREMIERE AT THE ORPHEUM THEATRE SAN FRANCISCO AND ROXIE THEATRE OAKLAND DAY AND DATE ON JANUARY 18TH. IT SMASHED EVERY BOX OFFICE RECORD IN BOTH OF THESE THEATRES FOR THE FIRST FIVE DAYS OF IT ENGAGEMENT. UNQUESTIONABLY THE PICTURE WILL SET A LONG RUN RECORD IN BOTH THEATRES. PUBLIC OPINION IS TERRIFIC. HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY COME BACK AND SEEN IT FOR A SECOND TIME. MANY HUNDREDS HAVE EXCLAIMED THAT IT IS THE FINEST PICTURE THEY HAVE EVER SEEN AND DEFINITELY WILL BE BACK TO SEE IT TWO OR THREE TIMES. I PERSONALLY AM PROUD TO BE ABLE TO EXHIBIT A PICTURE OF THIS CALIBRE IN OUR THEATRES. IT IS A REAL "MIRACLE" IN ENTERTAINMENT AND PRODUCTION.

KINDEST PERSONAL REGARDS=

JOE BLUMENFELD.

18.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE.

Since this wire was received, we have been informed... and are happy to announce to the trade... that "A SONG TO REMEMBER" has broken all existing records in both theatres for the full week!

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS

A Sidney Buchman Production

A Song to Remember

starring

Paul MUNI · *Merle* OBERON

WITH CORNEL WILDE

NINA FOCH · GEORGE COULOURIS

Directed by CHARLES VIDOR

Screen Play by Sidney Buchman

IN TECHNICOLOR

COLUMBIA PICTURES

Theatres Ordered To Conserve Coal

(Continued from page 1)

usually severe winter weather which has slowed down and in places halted the railroad movement of fuel.

So serious has the situation become that on Friday, Solid Fuel Administrator Ickes called upon municipal authorities in the affected areas to clamp down on all but essential uses of coal, specifically, by requiring the conservation of fuel in theatres and other places of amusement "where it can be effected without damage to health."

Ickes declared he was prepared to use his authority as administrator to support any appropriate conservation measures that officials indicated required Federal assistance to insure compliance.

It is expected that the congestion of the railroads, caused by extreme cold and heavy snows will have cleared up over the weekend, but some few days will be required to get shipments of coal to destinations. Accordingly, Ickes said, the controls on coal will remain in effect until further notice.

The area covered by the order includes the District of Columbia, the city of St. Louis, and the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia and the Northern section of Virginia.

Fuel Shortage Closes Albany Film Houses

ALBANY, Jan. 28.—Acting Mayor Frank S. Harris Friday issued an order closing all of the city's theatres, effective this morning at seven o'clock. The action was the result of the request of the Solid Fuels Administration for War, which stated here that the idea is to conserve fuel and permit deliveries only to householders who are nearly "out" of coal. The order also closes schools, night clubs and other places of amusement.

A Fabian Theatres official, commenting on the situation, declares houses in that circuit have an "eight or ten-day" coal supply on hand and Warner managers report that their present supply will last several days.

To Show Gallup Methods

After four years of experimentation, Dr. George Gallup and his Audience Research, Inc., will preview the organization's "jury system" used for previewing films and radio shows to determine audience reaction, at a press luncheon at the Hotel New Weston, here today.

Watch
U. A. releases
bearing
G.C.F.
Presents

Doob's Theatre 'Brownout' Slogans Adaptable to Offset Its Effects

Potential adverse box office effects from the theatre marquee 'brownout' wherever it will become effective next Thursday, can be avoided, at least partially, by a series of special slogans prepared by Oscar Doob, Loew's Theatres advertising-publicity manager. They were prepared following a decision by the management of that circuit to make a direct effort in its public advertising to offset the dimming of outfront displays. Copy suggestions include the following:

Brown-out! We're cooperating with the save-fuel campaign. Our outside lighting may be dim—but inside the show is brighter and as colorful as ever! Boxoffice open as usual—10:45 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Don't let the Brown-out make you blue! Our outside lights may be low—but our entertainment is still in high! Brown outside—but technicolorful inside! Boxoffice open usual hours.

Don't let the Brown-out fool you! Our outside lights will be low—to help the save-electricity drive—but inside the show is bright, colorful, the spirit high, the entertainment rosy and colorful.

Brown-out to save electricity! But don't let your morale go down. Go to Loew's to re-charge your morale-batteries! Our outside lights may be low—but brightness and cheer reigns inside.

Walsh Wants NLRB To Settle Fight

(Continued from page 1)

tle the issue would arrive there on Feb. 1.

The jurisdictional dispute is over whether the IATSE will permit set decorators, described by Walsh as "foremen" belonging to a different union, to exercise supervision over IATSE set dressers. Walsh declared that the IATSE will definitely not countenance such a situation, indicating that the dispute traces back to the producers' original refusal to permit the IATSE to bargain for the set dressers and decorators as a unit.

Walsh holds that the dispute is not one which comes under the jurisdiction of the War Labor Board, but should go to the NLRB. The procedure of having the NLRB adjudicate the dispute was originally started several months ago, but the Studio Conference suddenly withdrew and called the decorators out on strike. Walsh said that the decorators' union had violated its American Federation of Labor "no-strike" pledge when it caused the walkout the first time and it will be doing so again if it precipitates another studio strike, he added.

Walsh explained that the IATSE made no attempt to seek jurisdiction over the Screen Set Decorators Union while it was an independent group but its affiliation with the Conference has altered the situation.

Mexico Theatres in Anti-Argentine Move

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 28.—All film and radio programs were suspended for 15 minutes throughout Mexico at the weekend to make way for public services protesting against non-Democratic tendencies in the Argentine government. The demonstrations, promoted by the Confederation of Mexican Workers, this country's strongest labor organization, were similar to those held last year.

Burt Ohmann, 69, Dies

LYONS, N. Y., Jan. 28.—Burt C. Ohmann, 69, for 30 years a motion picture theatre operator and for 50 years a jeweler, here, died last week after a long illness.

WB Stockholders Annual Meet Feb. 20

(Continued from page 1)

is the election of five directors to serve for two years. Samuel Carlisle, Stanleigh P. Friedman, Charles S. Guggenheimer and Morris Wolf have been nominated for reelection and Samuel Schneider has been named as a new member of the board.

Proxy statement sent to stockholders discloses that there are 3,701,090 shares of common stock outstanding, and that the aggregate remuneration to directors for the year ended Aug. 31, 1944, was: Joseph Bernhard, $159,800; Samuel Carlisle, $44,750; Waddill Catchings, $700; Stanleigh P. Friedman, $66,950; Charles S. Guggenheimer, $800; Joseph H. Hazen (resigned, April, 1944), $41,500; Robert W. Perkins, $67,050; Samuel Schneider, $79,500; Herman Starr, $66,250; Albert Warner, $106,800; Harry M. Warner, $185,900; Jack L. Warner, $185,500; Morris Wolf, $600. All but Catchings, Guggenheimer and Wolf are employed in the corporation.

186 at $20,000 Plus

The company's actors, actresses, writers and directors, who during the year received remuneration in excess of $20,000 total 186 from the corporation and its subsidiaries. Seventeen received in excess of $100,000, for a total of $2,637,957; 51 received in excess of $50,000 but not more than $100,000, for a total of $3,420,146; and 118 received in excess of $20,000 but not more than $50,000, for a total of $3,668,110. James Cagney, formerly under contract, and a participant in gross receipts of certain of his pictures made for the company, received $183,652 last year.

Harry Kuckuck Dies

Harry J. Kuckuck, 69, owner of Lee Lash Studios, manufacturers of theatrical sets, died at his home here last week after a long illness. Kuckuck, who joined Lee Lash in 1892, is survived by a son and a sister.

PRC Signs E. M. Loew

PRC's Boston office has closed a 100 per cent deal with the E. M. Loew circuit in that city, it was reported at the weekend by Leo J. McCarthy, general sales manager.

Ease WPB Marquee Light Restrictions

(Continued from page 1)

necessary for public safety. The easing of the original ban was exclusively reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 17, after protests had been made that the lighting originally allowed would constitute a menace to public safety.

WPB officials said that any exhibitor or other person believing that the restrictions are too severe in his individual case may file an appeal with the district office, if his claim can be substantiated by certification of the local police authorities that more light is required for public safety. No relaxation will be permitted, however, where intensified lighting is intended to augment street lighting, it was said.

Clarification Coming

A clarification of the Jan. 15 order is expected to be issued by the WPB early this week defining more specifically the circumstances under which the limitations may be relaxed in individual cases. There will be no general easing of the requirements, however, it was said, and the 60-watt limitation on marquee lighting will be enforced for at least as long as it is required for a test of exhibitor contentions that it is dangerously low. It was suggested when the order goes into effect this week it may be found that increased lighting inside of box offices and in lobbies may be found to alleviate the situation created by the cutting off of marquee lights.

In enforcing the dimout order in New York, city police will merely warn first-time violators and subsequently will report violators to the utilities company furnishing the light, Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine announced at the weekend.

In cases of repeated violations, the utilities company will report them to the WPB regional office, which is empowered to take appropriate action.

Special Pressbook for New 'Bell' Release

Paramount has prepared a special 28-page exploitation manual for early booking of "For Whom the Bell Tolls," which will have 50 pre-release engagements during Washington's Birthday week. The picture, heretofore roadshown, will be sold in Paramount's third block for popular-priced engagements.

The press book, produced under supervision of R. M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director, and Alec Moss, exploitation manager, highlights the previous roadshow campaigns.

No Exemption for Phila. in 'Brownout'

Philadelphia, Jan. 28.—There is no possibility of an exemption for Philadelphia theatres when the nationwide 'brownout' becomes effective Feb. 1.

A spokesman for the Philadelphia Electric Co. said that "because our electric supply is definitely tied in with steam-generation, it is not our intention to ask for an exemption."

CBS Sets Institute For Video Reaction

Columbia Broadcasting System has created the Television Audience Research Institute which will make a continuing study of television audiences; evaluate programs and program ideas through audience reactions, attitudes and viewing habits; and maintain television operation records and program reference data, it is announced by John K. Churchill, CBS director of research.

Operating as a separate division of the CBS research department, the Institute will have its own offices and staff and will be under the management of Dr. Donald Horton. Experimental studies in television audience research have been conducted by CBS since June of last year. Weekly tests of audience reactions, using small panels of inexperienced reviewers as respondents, have accumulated much material that can now be incorporated into Institute records, it is pointed out.

Demand Upgrading Of 'White-Collarites'

(*Continued from page* 1)

collar' workers whose "economic plight," the national union states, "represents a grave threat to our nation's economic stability and must be promptly corrected to enable them to make their maximum contribution to our strenuous drive for victory and to the nation's prosperity during reconversion and peace."

The CIO union acted at the weekend through its general executive board, following a two-day board session here last Wednesday and Thursday at the Hotel McAlpin. The UOPWA urged the extension of collective bargaining to all 'white-collar' workers through expanding organization as well as Government intervention to make current wage policies meet their needs.

Phila. May Repeal Children Exemption

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 28—The proposal to repeal the exemption of the local tax on children's theatre admissions has met considerable protest from the local industry. Louis J. Goffman, attorney for Warners, declared that the passage of the amendment by the City Council will result in increased juvenile delinquency by keeping youngsters away from theatres.

Theatres and other amusement enterprises are taxed by the city one cent on each 25 cents, with non-profit amusements and tickets for children under 14 tax-free.

Baston in New NBC Post

Whitney M. Baston, former transmission engineer of NBC, has been appointed to the newly-created post of technical training director, according to announcement by O. B. Hanson, NBC vice-president and chief engineer.

Butler Is Promoted

Ralph Butler, producer of radio shows for Young and Rubicam, will become daytime production supervisor in the advertising agency's radio division, starting today.

Review

"What A Blonde"

(*RKO Radio*)

IF a moral can be drawn from this 71 minutes of slapstick comedy, featuring Leon Erroll, it is that the complications which ensue when a citizen tries to put one over on his gasoline ration board, do not compensate for the effort, let alone the amount of gas that can be secured. That is the hub of the plot structure of "What a Blonde," produced as a moderate budgeter by Ben Stoloff, and directed with fast, and neat, timing by Leslie Goodwins. Besides Erroll, the cast includes Richard Lane, Michael St. Angel, Elaine Riley, Ceda Ann Borg, Clarence Kolb, Lydia Bilbrook, Ann Schoemaker and Chef Milani. All in all, it adds up to better than average for fare of this genre.

Errol is a wealthy, but henpecked manufacturer of ladies' unmentionables. Non-essential work says the ration board, and, therefore, no extra gas to ride to work. However, they rule, if Errol carries riders he could qualify for extra gas. It's the same war situation in Errol's factory, so, therefore, no more silk for Errol. Complications ensue, both when Errol tries to get riders and promote a synthetic silk manufactured by Clarence Kolb. Instead of just being buffeted around by his wife and butler, Errol has to combat Kolb, the latter's wife, and a bevy of chorines. Things are rather hectic for a while as Errol tries to squirm out of his various predicaments, but things turn out well in the end, although there is no extra gas, and no synthetic silk.

The screenplay is by Charles Roberts, from an original by Oscar Brodney. Sid Rogell was executive producer.

Running time, 71 minutes. "G."* Released in block No. 3.

MILTON LIVINGSTON.

*"G" denotes general classification.

'Dimes' 25 to 50% Ahead of Last Year

March of Dimes theatre collections are running 25 to 50 per cent ahead of last year, national campaign headquarters reported at the weekend.

First out-of-town community to report total collections is Chapel Hill, N. C., where the Carolina and Pic Theatres have already taken in $1,062, already higher than last year. Samuel Rinzler, head of Randforce circuit, here, reported $2,600 for his first day, against $1,800 last year, a 40 per cent increase. Loew's New York theatres on their first day did $25,759, against $16,231 last year, an increase of over 50 per cent. Loew's out-of-town theatres reported $32,665, a 30 per cent increase over last year's $24,295.

Times Square Rally

A demonstration for the drive was held Saturday in Times Square, here, during which a 'Dimes' trolley car, was driven by by Olsen and Johnson between Columbus Circle and Times Square, with chorus girls as passengers and conductorettes. 'Passengers' fares went to the drive. A 'conga-line' was led by Frankie Carle and his orchestra, starting at Capitol, and marching to Times Square, with all in line contributing. The 'Statue of Liberty' in Times Square was lit with 63 candles, featuring President Roosevelt's birthday cake.

Home offices and studios have started a campaign among the workers. Leonard Goldenson has set up a complete organization here, with a chairman for each home office. They are: Max Seligman, Columbia; William England, RKO; Harry Kalmine, Warners; Sam Machnovitch, Universal; J. Land, 20th-Fox and National Theatres; Harry Buckley, United Artists; Walter Cokell, Paramount; Eugene Picker, Loew's; A. E. Schiller, Republic; Norton Richey, Monogram; Ben Schwalb, PRC; Herman Robbins, National Screen; N. Kellman, Century Circuit; Nick Matsukas, Skouras; Phil Harling, Fabin Theatres; Erwin Gold, Randforce Theatres.

Newsreel Raw Stock Cut Is Lowered

(*Continued from page* 1)

where he conferred last week with WPB representatives.

Schaefer also indicated that the WPB overall industry cut in allocations for the 11 companies might be considerably less than the 27,000,000 feet curtailment for the quarter, also suggested by the WPB at the conference with the industry's advisory committee.

Study by the WPB of stock figures presented by the newsreels indicates that the average length of the reels has been running around 700 feet instead of the 750-foot length permitted under earlier WPB allocations; a new figure slightly below 700 feet will be set. No curtailment in the number of newsreel prints is contemplated.

Allocations for individual companies on features will be ready by the time the industry's advisory committee meets with WPB officials in Washington on Thursday. Schaefer will return to Washington either tomorrow or Wednesday.

Hartford Honors Lloyd

HARTFORD, Jan. 28.—One hundred film executives and theatre managers from Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York attended a 'welcome home' reception for Capt. Walter Lloyd, USA, recently retired, who has resumed the managership of the M. & P. Allyn Theatre here. Lloyd was presented with a gift and a scroll. The reception also honored Stanley Redmond, who has been acting manager in Lloyd's absence and who will join M. and P. in Lowell, Mass.

Schrank a Partner

Herbert Schrank, associated with the law firm of Barshay, Frankel and Rothstein and handling legal matters for IATSE New York projectionists' local No. 306, has become a member of the same firm.

Seven Started, Seven Finish, 43 Are in Work

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 28.—Production activity at the studios maintained its level last week as seven features were started, and seven others completed. Total number of pictures in work remained unchanged, at 43. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Started: "Boston Blackie Booked on Suspicion," with Chester Morris, Lynn Merrick, Steve Cochran, Richard Lane, George E. Stone, Frank Sully.

Shooting: "Over 21," "Ten Cents a Dance," "The Fighting Guardsman," "A Thousand and One Nights," "Kiss and Tell" (Sol Siegel).

M-G-M

Shooting: "Yolanda and the Thief," "The Harvey Girls," "Her Highness and the Bellboy," "Weekend at the Waldorf."

Monogram

Finished: "Stranger from Santa Fe," "Docks of New York."

Shooting: "The Robot Murder."

Paramount

Finished: "Good Intentions."

Shooting: "Masquerade in Mexico," "Too Good to Be True."

PRC

Finished: "Enemy of the Law."

Started: "Undercover Girl," with Mary Beth Hughes, Claudia Drake, Hugh Beaumont, Edmund MacDonald; "Deadline."

Shooting: "Enchanted Forest."

RKO

Finished: "Johnny Angel," "Along Came Jones" (International).

Started: "George White's Scandals of 1945," with Joan Davis, Jack Haley, Phillip Terry, Gene Krupa, Martha Holliday, Ethel Smith; "Man Alive," with Pat O'Brien, Adolphe Menjou, Ellen Drew.

Shooting: "Those Endearing Young Charms," "The Spanish Main," "Invisible Army."

Republic

Finished: "Return at Dawn."

Started: "Desperadoes of Dakota," with Wild Bill Elliott, Alice Fleming, Bobby Blake, Ian Keith.

Shooting: "Bells of Rosarita," "New Faces of 1945."

20th Century-Fox

Started: "Caribbean Mystery," with James Dunn, Sheila Ryan, Eddie Ryan, Jackie Paley, Reed Hadley, Roy Roberts, Richard Shaw, Daral Hudson, Rene Carson.

Shooting: "Two-Faced Quilligan," "The Dolly Sisters," "State Fair," "Colonel Effingham's Raid," "A Bell for Adano," "Captain Eddie."

United Artists

Shooting: "Paris — Underground" (Bennett); "Captain Kidd" (Bogeaus); "Guest Wife" (Skirball-Manning).

Universal

Shooting: "The Naughty Nineties," "Lady on a Train," "Invitation to Death," "That's the Spirit," "A Night in Paradise."

Warners

Shooting: "Three Strangers," "This Love of Ours," "Mildred Pierce."

Independent

Shooting: "Ten Little Indians" (Popular Pictures).

DOORS DAILY

N.Y. STRAND HAS TO DO IT TO HANDLE TH

OBJECTIVE, BURMA

WILLIAM PRINCE · JAMES BROWN · DICK ERDMAN · GEORGE TOBIAS · HENRY HULL · WARNER ANDER

OPEN

7:15 A.M.

MOBS POURING IN TO WARNERS' MIGHTY

STARRING **ERROL FLYNN**

duced by

Screen Play by Ranald MacDougall & Lester Cole • From an Original Story by Alvah Bessie • Music by Franz Waxman

Directed by

Army Has Received 52,687 Prints

Hollywood, Jan. 28.—A total of 25,785 prints of features and 26,902 of short subjects have been furnished to the Army by the industry to date, the Army reported to the War Activities Committee here at the weekend.

Altec Promotes Pierce

R. E. Pierce, Altec's installation supervisor of technical apparatus for the Armed Forces, working in Lexington, Mass., has been named Detroit branch manager under F. C. Dickely, Altec's district manager there.

Review

"Her Lucky Night"

(Universal)

Hollywood, Jan. 28

THE Andrews Sisters, Martha O'Driscoll and Noah Beery, Jr., are featured in a minor musical which starts out briskly enough, but all too soon begins to drag. Occasional songs relieve the tedium, among them "Is You Is or Is You Ain't My Baby?" and "Dance with the Dolly with the Hole in Her Stocking."

Warren Wilson, who produced, also wrote the story on which Clyde Bruckman's screenplay is based. It is about a millionnaire who hires a girl to investigate his nephew, whom he has never met. The girl, a firm believer in astrology, discovers the nephew is dogged by misfortune because of an unfortunate conjunction of planets in his horoscope. It all comes out all right in the end, presumably when the stars begin to revolve the other way.

Edward Lilley directed a cast which includes George Barbier, Maurice Cass, Marie Harmon, Olin Howlin and Robert Emmett Keane.

Running time, 63 minutes. "G."* Release date, Feb. 9. THALIA BELL

"G" denotes general classification.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Jan. 28

PARAMOUNT has nine short subjects lined up for Academy award consideration. The list is headed by "Bombalera," two-reel Musical Parade subject produced by Louis Harris. . . . Hal Wallis is closing a deal for the purchase of screen rights to "The Perfect Marriage," current Broadway play by Samson Raphaelson.

•

Rudy Vallee will have an important role in "Man Alive" at RKO. . . . 20th Century-Fox has exercised its option on the services of June Haver. . . . I. A. Bezzerides has been signed by Paramount to a long-term writing contract. . . . Bettejane Greer will have a top spot in "George White's Scandals of 1945," which Nat Holt and George White will produce for RKO. . . . 20the Century-Fox has signed Frank Latimore.

•

William Castle, Columbia contract director, has been granted a leave of absence to go to New York to direct the stage drama "Star Spangled Widow." . . . Lauritz Melchior, Metropolitan opera star, has been given a contract by M-G-M, and assigned a role in "Brighton Beach." . . . William Dieterle will direct Selznick's "The Scarlet Lily," in which Ingrid Bergman will be starred.

•

Joe Santley's first directing assignment under his new Warner contract will be "Shadow of a Woman," from the novel, "He Fell Down Dead," by Virginia Perdue. Alexis Smith, Helmut Dantine and Craig Stevens are set to head the cast of the mystery drama, which is slated to get underway shortly with William Jacobs producing.

AMPA

Report to the Industry . . .

In this war-torn year, food rationing and hotel personnel shortages have not worked well on AMPA's format of operation. Thus, there may not be many "big" open meetings this season. To be sure, we'll have a few salutes within keeping of AMPA prestige.

Members of AMPA will understand. As will others to whom AMPA has meant much in the over-all pattern of a great industry geared for its contribution to the progress of Peace and prosecution of War.

In the service of the industry since 1917, AMPA realizes the trust in which it is held—a trust it cannot fail. AMPA's is a proud heritage cleaved out of the hard bedrock of deep loyalty to the inspiring enterprise that is the Motion Picture; an abiding faith in its destiny; and a practical sympathy for our fellowmen (members or non-members) who need a helping hand. To the latter, AMPA's Relief Fund is the first port of call.

In war as in peace AMPA will go forward, hand in hand, with the creative forces of our industry. AMPA will rise to the fullness of responsibilities placed on it by the sales, distribution and exhibition forces of our business. That is both our professional credo and our personal commitment.

Inspired by its glorious past, AMPA faces those unborn tomorrows with new hope forged out of a world of chaos; with courage to meet the ever-changing conditions in an ever-changing world; and confidence in the ability and integrity of the leaders of our business to guide it to ever greater achievements.

To those simple ideologies and matter-of-fact philosophies the AMPA of today dedicates itself toward the moulding of an even better, bigger AMPA of tomorrow. For, in so doing AMPA hopes to play its humble part in civilization's great production—the Motion Picture.

ASSOCIATED MOTION PICTURE ADVERTISERS

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Ferguson Lunch for More Exploiteers

William Ferguson, M-G-M director of exploitation was host on Friday to four more M-G-M field exploitation men, Ted Galanter, Portland and Seattle; Howard Hertz, Los Angeles; William Newberry, San Francisco, and Elliott Foreman, New York and New Jersey, at a luncheon at the Astor Hotel.

Also present were representatives of the trade press.

Four more M-G-M exploiteers and three office managers will arrive today for home office conferences. The exploiteers are Charles Baron, Pittsburgh; Dewey Bloom, Canada; Charles Dietz, Detroit; and William Green, assistant to William Bishop, Chicago. Office managers are J. Zimmerman, St. Louis; A. W. Cross, Minneapolis, and Ben Wolf, Boston. Leaving over the weekend were Galanter, Herty, and Newberry, and office managers, Mrs. E. Mitchell, Memphis; Blanche Carr, Charlotte; Mrs. Amy Sinclair, Kansas City; Mrs. Adeline Kerr, assistant manager, Chicago. Others departing included Charles N. Kessnich, Atlanta, and Rudy Berger, Washington, both district managers.

Triangle Honors Basson

Joseph D. Basson, ex-president of local No. 306, IATSE, became the first honorary member of the Triangle Club of that organization at a meeting held here last week at Fraternal Hall. Following Basson's induction he installed new officers of the club, including Mike Pericleous, new president. A buffet luncheon was served the 70 attending members. Guests included Morris Klavitz and Harry E. Storin.

Hoffberg Buys 'Jones'

"Emperor Jones," released several years ago through United Artists, has been acquired by J. H. Hoffberg, for reissue in March. Deals are reported pending for a Broadway first-run. The film, which stars Paul Robeson, was produced by John Krimsky and Clifford Cochran.

Fire Destroys Cherokee

JEFFERSON, CITY, Tenn., Jan. 28.—The Cherokee Theatre, owned by Mrs. C. K. Hutton, was destroyed by fire at an estimated loss of $15,000. The house will be rebuilt as soon as materials and manpower are available.

RCA Names Fields to South American Post

CAMDEN, N. J. Jan. 28.—J. L. Fields, formerly assistant chief of sales and operations in the Hollywood plant of RCA Victor, has been appointed to the staff of RCA Mexicana, S.A., as technical consultant to RCA film sound recording licensees in Mexico. His headquarters will be in Mexico City.

Associated with RCA in Hollywood since 1936, he supervised installation of RCA recorders in the Warner studios in 1937 and 1938, was placed in charge of maintenance shops and mobile recording equipment in 1939, and in 1940 assumed responsibility for the company's recording equipment rental program in Hollywood.

15 Years for CBS Show

Columbia Broadcasting's "American School of the Air," voted one of the best daytime programs in the recent MOTION PICTURE DAILY-*Fame* radio poll, will observe its 15th anniversary on the air on Feb. 5. Launched in 1930 as a twice-weekly series, it currently presents 150 programs over 30 weeks through 100 CBS stations in the U. S. and 38 in Canada.

FAME

ELEVENTH ANNUAL EDITION IS NOW ON THE PRESS

THE INTERNATIONAL INDEX TO PRODUCTION, TALENT AND TECHNICAL VALUES IN THE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT . . .

SCREEN • CONCERT • RADIO

One Dollar the Copy

EDITED BY TERRY RAMSAYE

QUIGLEY PUBLICATIONS

ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK (20)

SUCCESS!

When a leading critic* says this:
"We confidently predict this picture is one of the best we will see this year!"...
and the year is only **8 days old** ...It's no wonder all New York agrees by sending enthusiastic crowds to the Gotham Theatre, New York, to establish a record gross in the first three weeks of its engagement!

*Bosley Crowther, N. Y. Times

G.C.F. presents

"Mr. Emmanuel"

starring
FELIX AYLMER with GRETA GYNT and WALTER RILLA
From a novel by Louis Golding • Directed by Harold French
Produced by William Sistrom
A Two Cities Films Production Made in London, England

Another "One of the Best" from U.A.!

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 21 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1945 TEN CENTS

IATSE Will Organize All Film Salesmen

Executive Board Studies Best Way to Aid Them

The IATSE will "in every way" encourage the unionization of the industry's estimated 2,500 film salesmen and will probably embark upon its own campaign of organization once the IATSE executive board determines procedure, Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president indicated here yesterday.

Salesmen's groups in Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and four or five other cities have already approached the IATSE for charters and aid in organizing, according to Walsh.

A three-man committee, representing New York film salesmen, now organizing here, reported on the results of its study of possible affiliation at a meeting here over the weekend. Plans of the New York group are still in the formative stage but reaction of their representatives is reported to be favorable. New York

(*Continued on page* 4)

Poole-Bruen-Berge Decree Meet Today

Robert Poole and Hugh Bruen, executives of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners will confer with Wendell Berge, assistant U. S. Attorney General, and Robert L. Wright, assistant to the Attorney General, in Washington, today, on the Department of Justice's pending court action on the consent decree. Bruen said in New York yesterday that the discussions will deal with the present status of the Govern-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Carr Meets with Rank On French Gaumont

LONDON, Jan. 29.—E. T. Carr, managing director of J. Arthur Rank's Eagle-Lion Distributors, Ltd., has gone into immediate consultation with Rank here over formal ratification of an agreement providing for Rank to become interested in a major French circuit, which is understood to be Gaumont British.

Arrangements are being expedited for Carr's departure to Sweden on a similar mission.

Procedure Is Set For Relief from 'Brownout' Orders

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—In a warning that violation of the "Brownout" order which requires the darkening of theatre marquee and advertising lights starting Thursday may result in total discontinuance of electric service and may also be punishable by a fine and imprisonment, the War Production Board today outlined the procedure to be followed by exhibitors who believe the restrictions will work an exceptional or unreasonable hardship upon them or will endanger public health or safety.

In such instances, the WPB said, the exhibitor should appeal in writing to the nearest WPB field office, setting forth all pertinent facts, including a statement of the necessity for the lighting, and the amount and the number of hours it needs to be used each day.

Where discontinuance of lighting is

(*Continued on page* 4)

'Dimes' 25% Ahead Of 1944 Campaign

The first four days of the industry's March of Dimes campaign indicate collections are running from 20 to 30 per cent ahead of last year's results, according to reports reaching national industry headquarters yesterday.

Harry Brandt reported his theatres are collecting about one-third more than in 1944; Joseph R. Vogel reported for Loew's out-of-town thea-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Army DSM Award To General Curtis

Brig. Gen. Edward P. Curtis, formerly sales manager of the motion picture department of Eastman Kodak, now chief of staff of the U. S. Eighth Air Force, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for "extraordinary services." General Curtis received the Distinguished Service Cross in World War I when he served as a major in the Air Force. He was also awarded the Croix de Guerre and Order of St. Anne at that time.

He was made chief of staff of the Eighth Air Force in 1943.

Capra and Briskin Form Partnership

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 29.—Col. Frank Capra and Lt. Col. Samuel Briskin have formed a partnership to produce, effective whenever the Army releases Capra. Functioning under a name yet to be determined, they will make one picture annually and supervise an additional series.

Briskin, recently honorably discharged, meanwhile, will open offices, negotiate a releasing deal, select stories and further plans to the point where Capra will step in when resuming his civilian status. This has resuscitated persistent reports here that Capra was about to enter the inactive Army list. He has always denied knowledge of when this might develop.

ODT Offers to Expedite Film Transportation

Delivery of film to exhibitors from exchanges and from theatre to theatre is seen greatly expedited by an offer of prompt aid to secure replacements for damaged or broken down truck parts, made here yesterday by John W. Adelung, district manager of the highway transport division of the Office of Defense Transportation.

Trucking companies have been unsuccessful for the most part in obtaining priorities for broken or damaged parts, and in many cases exhibitors have been forced to use their own cars to obtain needed prints, or even hire taxicabs to pick up prints because of a lack of sufficient trucks.

Alleviation of this situation will be taken care of by the highway transport division from now on, it was said. Adelung stated: "It is a prime function of our maintenance section to assist operators in obtaining automobile parts and tires to keep essential transportation in operation. It is, therefore, vitally important that truck and bus operators notify the ODT office promptly in case of any difficulties. In most cases, immediate aid can be given."

Adelung declared that film delivery service falls within the category of "essential transportation," and that replacement parts and aid for damaged vehicles can be obtained from his office.

27,000,000-Ft. Cut Shaved To 15,000,000

Cut Will Still Cause Difficulties, However

The War Production Board's raw stock allocations for the industry for the first quarter of 1945 will probably represent a cut of only 15,000,000 feet rather than the 27,000,000 feet indicated when the industry's advisory committee met with WPB officials in Washington several weeks ago, it was learned here yesterday. This would represent a cut of less than five per cent.

As reported in *Motion Picture Daily* yesterday, the newsreels will probably have less than 1,000,000 feet cut from their allocations for the first quarter with the 11 companies

(*Continued on page* 4)

Goldhammer Sees Raw Stock Easing

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 29.—Film Classics territorial distributors were told by L. E. Goldhammer, president and general manager, at their first national meeting at the Hotel Coronado, here, that assurances have been received from Washington of obtaining sufficient raw stock.

Goldhammer said Government officials have promised that the raw stock shortage will be eased by April and that Film Classics would receive its full quota. There is also assurance

(*Continued on page* 4)

WLB Sets Feb. 8 for Studio Mediation

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 29.—The War Labor Board has set an arbitration hearing for Feb. 8 in an attempt to settle the jurisdictional dispute between the Studio Set Decorators local No. 1421 and the IATSE. Thomas Tongue, Seattle attorney, will preside as arbitrator.

The IATSE contends that the dispute is one which should be under the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Board and not the WLB since it is the function of the NLRB to decide upon what should constitute a collective bargaining unit and who should represent it.

Personal Mention

MAJOR MATTHEW J. FOX, Universal vice-president, has been assigned by the Army to industrial mobilization operations in France.

•

S. G. RAYMENT, editor of *Kinematograph Weekly*, London, will observe his 65th birthday on Feb. 6 and his 25th year with that weekly British trade publication, 18 of them as editor.

•

WILLIAM GLEICHER of the M-G-M sales department will arrive in Atlanta today from Kansas City. He will return to New York at the end of the week.

•

THOMAS BAIRD, director of the film division of the British Information Services, here, has returned to New York from Hollywood.

•

VICTOR MORELLI, manager of the Bristol Theatre, Bristol, Conn., is ill with pneumonia at Bristol Hospital.

•

NATE SCHULTZ, Monogram franchise holder in Cleveland, is due in New York for a business visit.

•

BOB HICKEY, Midwest publicity chief for RKO, is visiting St. Louis. from Chicago on business.

•

WESLEY RUGGLES has entrained from Hollywood for New York, en route to London.

•

MARTIN QUIGLEY left for the Coast yesterday, to be gone several weeks.

•

JOSEPH ROBERTS of Vanguard's publicity staff, is in Cleveland.

Sir William Jury Left $2,002,952

LONDON, Jan. 29.—A probate of the late Sir William Jury's will reveals that he left an estate valued at $2,002,952. Florence Cook, Jury's secretary, was bequeathed a nine-room house and $400,000 in a life trust fund. Jury was an industry veteran who at one time was governing director of Jury-Metro Goldwyn, Ltd., M-G-M's London office. After a family bequest—he was a widower—he left the rest of his estate to 10 charities, including the Cinematograph Trade Benevolent Fund, of which he was formerly president.

Lt. Mooney Wounded

First Lt. Paul C. Mooney, Jr., formerly of the editorial staff of *Motion Picture Herald*, here, was wounded in action in Belgium on Jan. 7. Lt. Mooney is the third staff member of *Quigley Publications* to be wounded; the others were Capt. George Spires, who has been awarded the Croix de Guerre, and Sgt. Gene Arneel.

Central Casting for British Film Extras

LONDON, Jan. 29.—A board of inquiry that has been studying conditions of studio extras has submitted its report to the Ministry of Labor and, it is understood, the suggestion of the British Film Producers Association has been adopted whereby an official central casting bureau will be established, similar to Hollywood's, through which all extras will be hired. The demand of studio unions here for a closed shop will, therefore, be sidestepped, but the union, however, is accepting seats on the bureau's controlling committee.

Asks Ban on Union Political Levies

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 29.—Reportedly as an outgrowth of the Cecil B. De Mille-American Federation of Radio Artists case, in which De Mille was assessed a dollar by the union to fight an open shop law, Assemblyman Phil Davis, West Los Angeles, today introduced in the state legislature a measure which would make it "unlawful for a labor organization to levy an assessment upon any of its members for the purpose of raising funds to participate in a political campaign, or to suspend, expel or discriminate against any member for refusing to pay such assessment."

Violation of the proposed law would be made a misdemeanor.

Percentage Only For 'Remember'

Columbia's "A Song to Remember," which is being sold separately, will set a new precedent for the company by being its first picture to be sold exclusively on percentage to all runs, A. Montague, general sales manager, disclosed here yesterday.

Following openings at the Orpheum Theatre, San Francisco, and the Roxie, Oakland, Cal., on Jan. 18, prerelease engagements are now playing at Radio City Music Hall, New York; Orpheum, New Orleans; Orpheum and State, Boston; Capitol, Cincinnati, and State, St. Louis.

Law on Employment Discrimination Pends

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 29.—The Temporary State Committee Against Discrimination recommended today in a report that New York create a permanent five-man commission to fight racial and religious discrimination in employment, and to punish with fines and jail terms those found guilty of such discrimination.

Legislation to carry out these proposals will be introduced this week in both Senate and Assembly. Gov. Thomas E. Dewey and legislative leaders of both parties are aligned behind the measure.

Rose in London

LONDON, Jan. 29.—David Rose, Paramount's British managing director, arrived here today from the U. S.

Gallup Explains His Sampling Method

Dr. George Gallup, head of the audience and public survey organization, and Albert E. Sindlinger, executive of his Audience Research Institute, outlined the operations of ARI in measuring audience reactions at a luncheon for film and radio press representatives at the Hotel New Weston here yesterday.

Dr. Gallup also explained the workings of the two audience reaction measuring machines, the Hopkins electric 'televoting' machine to register reactions of sample audiences to films, and the 'ballot analyzer' for measuring individual reactions to films or radio programs. Industry clients of ARI include RKO, Columbia, Walt Disney and David O. Selznick, as well as *Photoplay Magazine*.

National Theatres in Annual Meet Feb. 5-7

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 29.—With Charles Skouras presiding, the annual meeting of National Theatre's division presidents will be held at the Fox West Coast headquarters here Feb. 5-7. Spyros Skouras will attend some of the session, and George Skouras possibly will be present also. The agenda includes reports on the past year and setting of policies for the year ahead. Among the delegates will be Elmer Rhoden, Rick Ricketson, Frank Newman, Al Rosenberg, Harold Fitzgerald, Dave Idzal and Dan Michalove.

FWC Has New First Run in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 29.—Fox West Coast Theatres has established a new first run trio here with the opening of the re-furnished Guild Theatre, formerly called the Music Box, on Hollywood Boulevard.

The house will be linked with the downtown United Artists and the Fox Wilshire. Scheduled for the opening are RKO's "Bride by Mistake" and "The Falcon in Hollywood."

'U' Names H.J.Martin New Haven Manager

Harry J. Martin of Universal's Boston sales staff has been named to succeed John Pavone as manager of 'U's' New Haven branch.

Martin, who joined the company in 1931, will assume his new duties on Thursday.

Young Calls R. C. Meet

MEMPHIS, Jan. 29.—Tom W. Young, chairman of the Memphis exchange area for the War Activities Committee, will hold a meeting of exhibitors here on Feb. 23 at which time Tom J. Connors of 20th Century-Fox, and R. J. O'Donnell of the Interstate circuit, Dallas, will speak in behalf of the Red Cross.

SOEG Seeks NLRB Conciliator in Dispute

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 29.—The National Labor Relations Board has been asked by Screen Office Employees Guild negotiators to appoint a conciliator to adjudicate the 'friendly impasse' reached between the union and Pat Scollard, chairman of a committee representing all distributors, on a new salary contract covering about 300 exchange workers here.

The union seeks studio scales which are higher than present exchange scales. The distributors oppose this, partly because they are reluctant to establish a precedent which might be applicable to other pacts in all exchange cities. Should a conciliator fail to break the deadlock, which is probable, the case would be certified to the War Labor Board for final determination.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Showplace of the Nation • Rockefeller Center
"A SONG TO REMEMBER"
PAUL MUNI • MERLE OBERON
Introducing CORNEL WILDE
A Columbia Picture in TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

NOW PLAYING ROXY THEATRE
EXTRA! AT LAST...REVEALED!
THE UNKNOWN BATTLE
The NEW MARCH OF TIME
A 20th Century-Fox Release

STATE
ON SCREEN
'30 SECONDS OVER TOKYO'
SPENCER TRACY
VAN JOHNSON
ROBT. WALKER
IN PERSON
JEAN PARKER
JOEY ADAMS

20TH CENTURY-FOX PRESENTS
A. J. Cronin's
"THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM"
Continuous Performances
RIVOLI
B'way & 49th St.

BING CROSBY
BETTY HUTTON
SONNY TUFTS
In Person
Woody HERMAN
and His Orchestra
ALL-STAR REVUE
"Here Come the Waves"
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett
Raymond Massey
"Woman in the Window"
AN INTERNATIONAL PICTURE
—A RKO RELEASE

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THE BIG BONANZA

STARRING

RICHARD ARLEN
ROBERT LIVINGSTON
JANE FRAZEE

WITH
GEORGE "GABBY" HAYES
and LYNNE ROBERTS
and BOBBY DRISCOLL
J. M. KERRIGAN

BUY U. S.
WAR BONDS

GEORGE ARCHAINBAUD – *Director*

Screen Play by
DORRELL and STUART McGOWAN and PAUL GANGELIN

Original Story by
ROBERT PRESNELL and LEONARD PRASKINS

A REPUBLIC PICTURE

'Dimes' 25% Ahead Of 1944 Campaign

(Continued from page 1)

tres that the weekend total was $147,-064, against $126,958 last year; Charles C. Moskowitz, for Loew's New York theatres, reported $100,860, against $79,743 last year. Largest amount by an individual theatre was $8,628 by the Capitol, Washington.

Jack Kirsch, co-chairman of Illinois; Sol Schwartz, RKO; Harry Kalmine, Warner Theatres; Charles C. Moskowitz and Joseph R. Vogel, Loew's; Harry Brandt, Brandt Theatres; David Weinstock, Rayburn Theatres, and Charles Skouras, Fox West Coast, have all agreed to continue collections an additional four days where shows do not change.

Stars to Appear at President's Ball

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Among stars scheduled to appear tomorrow at President Roosevelt's birthday celebration are: Myrna Loy, Veronica Lake, Alan Ladd, Linda Darnell, Monty Woolley, Danny Kaye, and Margaret O'Brien. Seventeen in all are billed for the ball.

IATSE to Organize All Film Salesmen

(Continued from page 1)

salesmen emphasize that they are organizing for basic reasons of economic security, of course, but also because of the growth of film buying combines.

Walsh stated emphatically here that if the film salesmen are organized, the IATSE intends to represent them; the IATSE represents all other "front-office" employes in film exchanges, except supervisory help like division, branch and assistant managers.

The IATSE executive board discussed plans for the organization of film salesmen at its Mid-Winter meeting in Minneapolis two weeks ago.

Powell Heads Britannica

E. H. Powell, president of the Encyclopedia Britannica, has been elected president of Encyclopedia Britannica Films, Inc., and Dr. Miller McClintock, formerly president of the Mutual Broadcasting System, and Dr. V. C. Arnspiger have been elected directors. William B. Benton, chairman, announced yesterday.

Crosley Buys WINS

Radio station WINS, New York, was sold yesterday to the Crosley Corporation, of Cincinnati, for $1,-700,000, Leonard Kapner, general manager of Hearst Radio, Inc., announced.

Oyster Triumphs at 'Co-Eds' Preview

Universal was host to the trade press and syndicate representatives at a dinner at Toots Shor's here last night prior to a sneak preview of the new Abbott-Costello film, "Here Come the Co-Eds," at RKO's 58th Street Theatre. Highlight of the picture, which evoked considerable hilarity, was a wrestling match between Costello and an oyster which he actually found in a bowl of oyster stew.

27,000,000-Ft. Cut Shaved 12,000,000

(Continued from page 1)

sustaining a cut of approximately 14,000,000 feet for other production.

The industry's raw stock allocation for the final quarter of 1944 was 325,-000,000, but with indications now that the industry will be allotted some 310,000,000 feet for the current quarter. The industry's advisory committee will meet with WPB officials in Washington Thursday to receive the allocations and to learn how the WPB intends to levy the proposed cut among the companies.

It was pointed out here yesterday that any raw stock saved from use by the newsreel companies cannot be used for feature releases since a lighter type of raw stock is used for the reels. Film company officials emphasized that the cut of 14,000,000 feet in the industry's raw stock allocations will still create considerable difficulties for the industry.

Warners Sets $200,000 Over for 'Berlin'

A trade and newspaper advertising budget which will exceed normal expenditures by $200,000 has been announced by Warners for "Hotel Berlin," which Jack Warner is reported rushing for release in order to take advantage of timeliness.

Exploitation funds, apart from special newspaper and tradepaper budgets, have been set for key city campaigns by the company's field men. The field exploitation force will leave this week to start the promotion work on the drive.

Harry Neville Dies

Funeral services were held here yesterday for Harry Neville, 77, actor, at the Church of the Transfiguration. Neville died of a heart attack.

Bronston's $4,350,000 Action Over 'Sun'

LONG BEACH, Cal., Jan. 29.—A suit for $4,350,000 was filed in Superior Court here, Saturday, by Samuel Bronston, producer, against Ideal Factoring Corp., Walter E. Heller and Co., David Hersh, and five others, charging them with seeking to defraud him of the profits and his interest in the film "A Walk in the Sun," which Broston says he mortgaged to the defendants for $650,000, last November.

Bronston, who is joined as plaintiff with Comstock Productions, charges the defendants sold all his rights to the film to Ideal Factoring, for the amount he owed.

Poole - Bruen - Berge Decree Meet Today

(Continued from page 1)

ment's action against the five consenting companies.

He pointed out that the PCCITO has had a conciliation plan in effect in California with distributors for the past five years to iron out trade problems. The plan was promulgated by the Los Angeles law firm of Albert J. Law, when the latter was a counsel for the PCCITO. Law drafted a trade conciliation plan for Southern California Theatre Owners Association, with which he was affiliated, before his death here early this month.

PCCITO does not plan an affiliation with Allied States, Bruen said in again discounting suggestions that such an affiliation was planned. Bruen pointed out that PCCITO's by-laws prevent such an affiliation and provide only for West Coast operations. Bruen and Poole will return to California following their conference.

Henshaw in Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 29.—Don Henshaw of the Canadian War Finance Committee, arrived in Hollywood today from Toronto to work with the industry's War Activities Committee on a film for the Eighth Canadian Victory Loan.

42 Some-Run Cases Filed

MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday inadvertently stated that there were 242 some-run arbitration cases filed in the four years of the consent decree. This was a typographical error and should have been 42.

Hayworth's Mother Dies

SANTA MONICA, Cal., Jan. 29.—Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for Mrs. Volga Cansino, mother of Rita Hayworth and formerly a member of the Cansino Dancers, who died here last Friday after a short illness.

Rites for Mrs. Silver

Funeral services for Mrs. Hannah Silver, mother of Milton Silver, film advertising executive, will be held tomorrow morning at Park West Memorial Chapel. Interment will be private.

Another Fire Epidemic

ATLANTA, Jan. 29.—Another series of fires has hit this area. Two Army theatres, one at Hendricks Field, Sebring, Fla., and the other at Lake Butler, Fla., were recently destroyed.

Goldhammer Sees Raw Stock Easing

(Continued from page 1)

he said, of adequate supplies for advertising accessories.

The raw stock and the accessories problems were the principal subjects discussed at the two-day meeting. Because of the greater importance of these matters plans for establishing 16 mm branches and post-war preparations were not considered.

The national executive committee to act as a liaison agency between the home office and the Distributors was named, with Albert Dezel of Detroit as chairman. Members of the commitee are: Bert Stearn, Pittsburgh; J. Francis White, Charlotte, N. C.; Joseph Wolf, Minneapolis; Arthur Lockwood, Boston; Sam Wheeler, Washington.

The meeting was attended by approximately 30, representing eighty-five per cent of the company's franchise holders. In addition to Goldhammer, the home office was represented by Irving Wormser, Eastern sales manager. Harry Arthur, Jr., St. Louis franchise holder entertained the delegates.

Procedure Is Set For 'Brownout' Aid

(Continued from page 1)

seen as endangering public health or safety, a certificate to that effect should be secured from the local fire, police or health department, for submission to the board's office.

It was emphasized that financial hardship that might result from the discontinuance of prohibited lighting is not sufficient basis for granting an appeal, and that the lights which are the subject of the appeal may not be used pending a decision on the petition.

It was pointed out that the order applies to the use of electricity, regardless of the type of lighting equipment used, and, therefore, will require the darkening of marquees and signs using neon or fluorescent lights as well as those using filament bulbs. Neon-lighted marquees will be limited to 60 watts, as well as those lighted by the more usual bulbs.

C. J. Williams Dies

C. Jay Williams, 86, director of Edison Vitagraph in the silent-film era and veteran stage actor, died at his home here over the weekend. He was a past president of the Actors Order of Friendship and a member of Actors Equity, Actors Fund, Lambs and the Elks.

RKO RADIO PICTURES, Inc.
announces the following revised date for the
NEW YORK TRADE SHOWING
OF
"WHAT A BLONDE"
THURSDAY, FEB. 1, AT 2:30 P.M.
RKO PROJECTION ROOM, 630 Ninth Ave., New York, N. Y.

GLOBE TICKET
COMPANY
154 W. 14th ST. N. Y. C.
Phone WAtkins 9-1486
PROMPT SERVICE
AS USUAL

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57 NO. 22 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1945 TEN CENTS

Seek Essential Rating for Theatre Seats

New WPB Order Will Not Affect Projectors

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Establishment by the Office of Civilian Requirements of a definite production program for the manufacture of theatre seats, placing them on the essential list for the issuance of spot authorizations to procure materials, was urged here yesterday by the Theatre, School and Public Seating Industry Advisory Committee at a meeting with War Production Board officials.

Committee members reported that the production of theatre chairs is insufficient for essen-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Extend Drive To Feb. 4

Following receipt of wires from several state chairmen, suggesting that the March of Dimes drive be extended to Feb. 4, at least, national drive chairman Nicholas M. Schenck yesterday wired all state chairman a request to prolong the drive from Feb. 1.

It was pointed out that the 'polio' fund lost money because of reduced attendance due to the severe weather during the opening days of the drive. A few more days added to the drive would make up that loss, it was said. The National Foundation for Infantile

(*Continued on page* 4)

IATSE Considering Charter for MPOE

The IATSE is expected to decide within the next 10 days whether or not it will issue a charter, to Motion Picture Office Employes Union, Local 23169, A.F.L., representing over 800 office workers in the Warner Bros home office and subsidiary companies: Universal home office and Paramount Sound News.

MPOE, a Federal office worker union under the A.F.L. setup, recently came under the jurisdiction of the new A.F.L. Office Workers International

(*Continued on page* 6)

No Ill Effects Seen From 'Brownout'

Chicago, Jan. 30.—Charles Ryan, assistant zone manager of the Warner circuit here, which has had the "brownout" in effect for two weeks, states that receipts have not dropped as a result. He is of the opinion that neighborhood houses might eventually profit by the change, at the expense of Loop theatres.

Theatre operators in this area have received official notice from Edison Commonwealth Co. on the 'brownout' order which starts tomorrow. It emphasized the change in lighting of theatre fronts, which, it said, must be followed to the letter.

Exempted on 'Brownout'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Exhibitors throughout California, except San Diego and vicinity, and Catalina Island, were today exempted from the "brownout" order which goes into effect Thursday.

Their exemption, announced by the Office of War Utilities, will run until June 30, next, indicating that War Production Board officials have in mind the possibilities of a coal shortage extending well beyond the winter months.

It was also announced that Southern Louisiana and most of Arizona and Nevada also have been exempted, together with an additional area in New Mexico, and areas served by the

(*Continued on page* 8)

Goldwyn Urges Raw Stock Allocations For All Producers

Terming the current rationing of raw stock by the War Production Board as "more important than any previous issue facing the industry," Samuel Goldwyn in a trade press interview here yesterday called for direct allocations of raw stock to independent producers so that they will not be dependent upon distributors for their supplies.

"Up to now," Goldwyn said in a prepared statement, "ration cards had been handed out to distributors and not to producers. The producers, as the original creators of the industry, demand a standing which will permit them to survive. No longer do they intend to remain subservient to the dis-

(*Continued on page* 6)

Independents Join Raw Stock Group

The industry's advisory committee to the War Production Board on raw stock has been enlarged to include independent producers and re-issue companies. The new representatives are scheduled to be present at the meeting in Washington tomorrow between the advisory committee and the WPB, at which the industry is expected to be advised of its raw stock allocations for the first quarter.

The cut is expected to total about 15,000,000 feet under the fourth quarter of 1944, instead of 27,000,000 feet originally proposed by the WPB to the indus-

(*Continued on page* 6)

War Program Needs Block Freon Supply

Theatres to Be Serviced Only on Application

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Objections of other claimants for basic materials used in the production of freon gas have blocked a proposed War Production Board order releasing unlimited supplies of the refrigerant for theatre cooling systems, it was learned here today.

Essential needs of exhibitors, however, are being taken care of through the appeals procedure, and a large number of theatre operators who were faced with the possibility of an

(*Continued on page* 8)

Frozen Funds For France

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—The State Department has accomplished a transfer to Paris of funds which American distributors could not draw out of North Africa because of the lack of dollar exchange, and the money will be available for use in reconstituting their business in France, it was learned here today. MOTION PICTURE

(*Continued on page* 8)

Para. Officials to Meet Partners

Leonard H. Goldenson, Paramount vice-president in charge of theatre operations, will head a group of theatre department executives who will leave Feb. 4 for Detroit, on the first leg of a trip to the Coast during which they will confer with theatre partners and associates in six key cities. Accompanying Goldenson will be Ed-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Acute Shortage of Shorts Hits Midwest Subsequents

CHICAGO, Jan. 30.—An acute shortage of new short subjects exists in the Chicago area, exhibitors explaining that the condition is due not only to fewer releases here as compared to past seasons, but also due to long runs of big features in the Loop, which tie up shorts for periods ranging from two to ten weeks.

Janet Stevenson, head shorts booker for the Balaban and Katz Circuit, states that it has never been harder to maintain B. and K.'s policy of getting shorts in all subsequent runs a month ahead. While she has the freedom to "pull" shorts from B. and K. first runs in the middle of a feature run, there is seldom anything new for use in their place.

Another contributing factor is the increased demands for one and two-reelers by exhibitors switching double bill programs temporarily for single top product. Such features as "Going My Way," "Since You Went Away," "Dragon Seed" and "Lady in the Dark," among others, are potted singly and require an average of two shorts for each play date.

Color short releases have also hit a new low due to the Government's increased consumption of that stock for its "Fighting Lady," which has been widely distributed.

Reviewed Today

Review of "Roughly Speaking" appears on page 4; "Here Come the Co-Eds," page 5.

Personal Mention

GEORGE J. SCHAEFER left for Washington yesterday.

•

ALEXANDER KORDA is recuperating from an attack of acute indigestion in a Hollywood hospital and both he and BEN GOETZ, M-G-M's supervisor in England, have delayed their return to New York.

•

F/C TONY HARGREAVES and SGT. HOWARD HAMILTON are the first Associated Screen News members to return from active service. Both were with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

•

EMIL STERN, vice president of the Essaness Circuit, Chicago, has left for Springfield, Mo., to visit his son, LT. ARTHUR STERN, who was wounded in action in Europe.

•

WARREN WEILLAND, treasurer of the Weilland-Lewis Circuit, Atlantic City, has been named to the board of directors of the Boardwalk National Bank.

•

PATRICIA FITZGERALD of the 20th Century-Fox branch in St. John, N. B., and WILLIAM J. MCLAUGHLIN of Montreal were married recently.

•

RUSSELL HOLMAN, JOHN BYRAM and META REIS will leave Paramount's Hollywood studio on Friday for New York.

•

LOU FORMATO, M-G-M's Philadelphia branch manager, and BUD BACHE, booker, returned there yesterday from New York.

•

ALAN COURTNEY, manager of the Newsreel Theatre, Los Angeles, is on a business trip to Baltimore, Washington and New York.

•

MAURY GOLDSTEIN, M-G-M's New Haven branch manager, and PHIL GRAVITZ, booker, were in New York yesterday.

•

ELMER NOLTE, executive of the Durkee Circuit, Baltimore, is a patient at Union Memorial Hospital in that city.

•

MORT BLUMENSTOCK and LARRY GOLOB of Warners have returned to New York from Macon, Ga.

•

EDWARD C. RAFTERY and GRADWELL L. SEARS left for Washington yesterday.

•

WILLIAM NEWBERY, M-G-M exploiteer in San Francisco, left New York yesterday for the Coast.

•

ISADOR RAPPAPORT, owner of the Baltimore Hippodrome, is visiting in New York.

•

MILTON SILVER, manager of the Northio Palace, Hamilton, O., is in Florida.

•

E. K. O'SHEA, M-G-M's Eastern sales manager, is ill at his home.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, Jan. 30

IT is common knowledge that the peak in admissions began to slide on or about Labor Day, that national circuit operators recognize a fractional recession has set in, that Government spending will be lower in the fiscal year beginning July 1, that Washington calculates amusements may taper off about 15 per cent from today's levels.

Common by way of general reaction, no doubt, will be complaints from those who have projected themselves into a fine dream world where everything goes up and nothing ever comes down. It will be too bad for these visionaries because the bump will be the harder when they get back to terra firma. But—

■

How hard need that bump be? Cold reasoning surely ought to take into realistic account the full realization this business has been, and is, fortune's child during the war; that surplus money in the billions has no place to go and that some of it automatically finds its way into theatres; that cars, refrigerators, radios and other presently unavailable items in consumer goods inevitably must siphon off a huge volume of dollars whenever their day returns.

It was that way before and it will be that way once again, of course.

■

Does this mean ruin for this industry? Most certainly, it does not. Probably it means the direction of the curve will be downward. Merit will count far more heavily than it does now. Showmanship and greater attention to business will be part of the process which will return the industry from abnormal to normal, regardless of what normal is to be. Viewpoints will have to undergo a re-processing of their own and there will have to be taken into the reckoning an appreciation of the blunt truth that no gravy train runs on perpetual motion.

■

Meanwhile, it is interesting to pass along a remark about the current drift of matters. It was made the other day by two men who are in a position to know of what they speak, and it bears on many published stories about national declines in theatre business. The remark:

"Business is off, yes. Seriously off? Of course not. Our records show very clearly that even now in many, many situations we are doing more theatre gross in a weekend than we formerly did in a full week. And we always thought the full week was good."

When you hear stories of sliding grosses, ask what the slide compares with if you want to learn what really gives.

■ ■

Blueprint for a producer's job by a producer who says it's worked for him as far as he and it have gone, although he advises against it as general practice:

1.—Never make more than a one-year deal.

2.—Condition of the deal specifically sets forth the first three months are to be devoted to "mulling."

3.—Next proviso allows two months for matters "pending."

4.—Devote June and July to putting "your best foot forward."

5.—August and September go to "tightening things."

6.—Last three months go to the studio head who never gets around to matters finally submitted.

The contract is up by this time, is not renewed and the producer goes to another studio where he starts all over again. By the time he makes the rounds and returns to the original lot, the original studio head is no longer there. At that point, the cycle goes into its second swing.

■ ■

Jimmy Starr in the Los Angeles *Herald-Express*.

"Lauritz Melchior, famed Metropolitan Opera baritone, has warbled his way into movie importance . . . his click . . . in 'Thrill of a Romance' has prompted M-G-M to sign him to a long-term contract. . . . Producer Joe Pasternak, who did cinematic wonders with Jose Iturbi, is placing Melchior in the cast lineup of "Brighton Beach" with Kathryn Grayson, June Allyson and Jimmy Durante."

Melchior's future is now assured.

■ ■

Leonard Goldstein, that wit, noticed a friendly pup frisking up and down a corridor. Pointing an unheralded finger, he upped with:

"And what are you producing now?"

■ ■

"What are you doing at ——?"

"If you find out, wish you'd let me know."

Buchanan Here to Discuss U.A. Post

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30. — Barry Buchanan, for the past two years on the special events and exploitation staff of the War Savings Division of the Treasury Department here, has left for New York to confer with Gradwell L. Sears, United Artists vice-president, concerning a post in the home office advertising-publicity department. The post of director of the department has been vacant since the resignation three weeks ago of Lou Pollock.

Sears was in Washington yesterday and could not be reached for comment. Carl Leserman, U. A. sales manager, said that no decision has been made on the appointment of an advertising-publicity director and that "several persons" are being considered. He made no specific denial that Buchanan was one of them.

J. L. Warner, Einfeld, Kalmenson Huddle

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30.—Main topic of conferences now under way at Warners' studio between Jack L. Warner, executive producer; Charles Einfeld, director of advertising publicity, and Ben Kalmenson, general sales manager, is the company's "Hotel Berlin," which is being rushed for national release to coincide with the Russian Army's approach to the German capital.

A number of day-and-date openings are being set up, including simultaneous premieres in nine American towns named Berlin, and more than double the regular advertising budget has been allocated for a news and trade paper campaign.

Warner, Einfeld and Kalmenson also are discussing plans for handling of "Objective, Burma," "Roughly Speaking," "God Is My Co-Pilot," "Escape in the Desert" and other productions.

Merit Legion Award To Lt. Col. Boettiger

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Lt. Col. John Boettiger, son-in-law of President Roosevelt, publisher of the Hearst *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and formerly executive assistant to Will H. Hays in the MPPDA, has received the Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in Italy."

Boettiger was a liaison officer of the Allied Military Government in Italy from September, 1943, to January, 1944.

ITOA Board to Meet Tomorrow on Rentals

Complaining about rising costs in film rentals and a decrease in grosses, the Independent Theatre Owners of America board of directors will hold a special meeting, prior to the regular scheduled board meeting tomorrow, to discuss the matter and determine the action to be taken.

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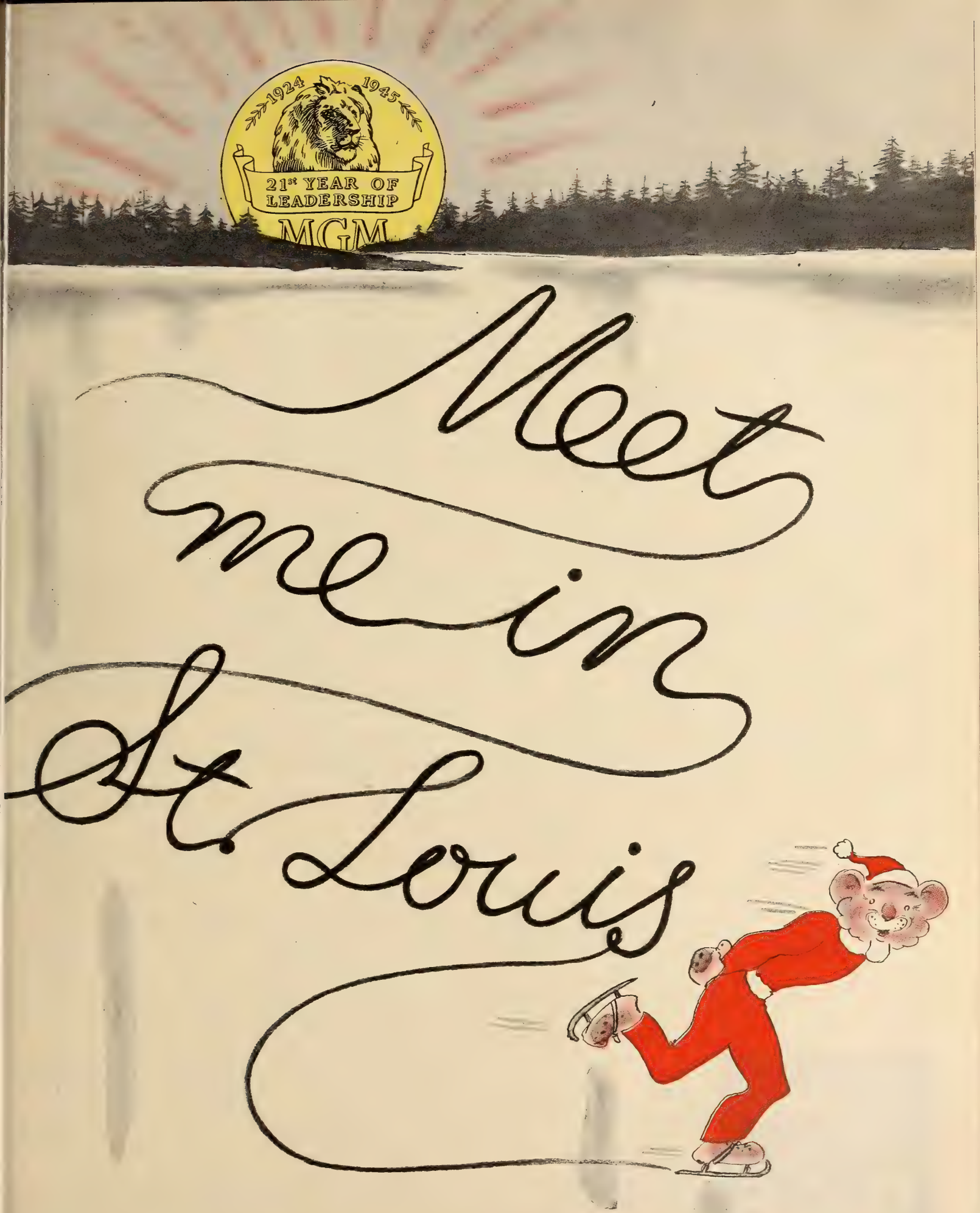
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CUTTING AMAZING FIGURES FROM COAST TO COAST!
Collections Every Show . . . Every Seat!
MARCH OF DIMES WEEK—Jan. 25-31

Seek Essential Rating for Theatre Seats

(Continued from page 1)

tial replacement purposes and for the equipment of new theatres authorized to be built in war production centers. At least 200,000 to 300,000 seats are needed for those purposes, it was said.

WPB material experts told the committee the scarcity of textiles in particular will continue to be a limiting factor in the production of seats.

The committee not only stressed the need of assistance in obtaining materials and manpower for their operations but emphasized that the wartime increase in manufacturing costs has exceeded the normally small profit margin and a price adjustment will be necessary to permit production without serious loss.

Booth Equipment Unaffected

Meanwhile, production of projection booth equipment is not expected to be materially affected by the latest order of the War Production Board halting the production and delivery of capital goods for civilian use, since most of the output is in areas where the labor situation is not too difficult, it was said today in WPB circles, here.

However, it was admitted, should the order be extended it is probable that projection production will be affected in common with other lines, and there is no assurance that, in its efforts to make the most efficient use of manpower, facilities and materials for war purposes, the scope of the order may not be materially broadened in the near future.

A large part of the booth equipment production, it was said, has gradually switched to areas where the labor situation is not critical, plants in the tighter labor sections having shifted almost entirely to war work.

This relocation of the industry has been one of the reasons why the WPB has been generous in dealing with theatre equipment production programs.

'Nick' Carter Dies

ATLANTA, Jan. 30.—Louis William (Nick) Carter, formerly associated with the old First National Pictures, and later with United Artists, has passed away here.

Watch
U. A. releases
bearing
G.C.F.
Presents

Review

"Roughly Speaking"

(*Warner Bros.*)

Hollywood, Jan. 30

ROSALIND RUSSELL returns, after too long an absence, in a biographical film which first unfolds in Nosegay 1902 and continues its amusing line of travel to the outbreak of World War No. 2. "Roughly Speaking" thereby travels a long road, but completes its journey with credit to its principals before and behind the camera.

Louise Randall Pierson wrote an autobiography which she called "Roughly Speaking." The title, kept for the film version, suggests what it does not contain. There is nothing rough in this breathless, helter-skelter, come-what-may story. She found life played tricks and usually was sharp in its disappointments, but the going evidently was also relieved and lightened by unquenchable good humor and an overwhelming confidence that what will be, will be for the best.

Thus, many things happen to Miss Russell in the leading role. A rebel against stuffy convention from her girlhood days and a disciple of her father's belief about heading always for the stars, she marries once and later again. By Donald Woods, her first husband, she has four children. By Jack Carson, her second, she has a fifth. 'Polio' strikes most of them and remains with one. Wood loses his bank job, then Miss Russell loses him in a deal which does her dirt.

Later, she meets Carson and their temperaments blend, hand-and-glove-like. They marry, grow roses, lose their nurseries and their shirts, start all over again. They finance an aeroplane engineer successfully. By this time, however, it's 1929 and they are broke once more. They sell hot dogs, fix flat tires, operate a parking lot near the New York World's Fair. Carson tries to sell vacuum cleaners.

In short, Miss Russell and Carson are failures. In that sense, they are down. In the larger and important sense, on the other hand, they are never out. Their family life is a huge success. Through one device or another, the boys go through good schools and, when the war arrives, they are off to the battle fields. Rosy plans for the comforts of economic freedom are never attained, but it does not cut any ice in the final analysis.

There is a refreshing quality about "Roughly Speaking" because of its two central characters and, the more particularly, because of Miss Russell. The impression is undeniably created these are real people—solid and substantial, whether financial successes or not. In this respect and in one manner or another, the wealth of incident no doubt will hit responsive chords among untold numbers of those who see this attraction. The hopes, the ambitions and the letdowns of the common man are mirrored, and mirrored with understanding.

"Roughly Speaking" is crowded with story. Something is always going on with Miss Russell and most of it is either funny or made so by the way she reacts. Her highlights, therefore, are many and are highly amusing. She dominates the show.

Carson does well in a romantic role, new for him. The long supporting cast is competent and includes Ray Collins, Kathleen Lockhart, Andy Clyde, Arthur Shields, Ann Doran, Hobart Cavanaugh, Alan Hale, Craig Stevens, John Alvin, Mary Servoss, Sig Arno, John Qualen, Mona Freeman, Andrea King, Robert Hutton, Jean Sullivan and Robert Arthur.

Mrs. Pierson wrote her own screenplay and thereby preserved the flavor of her book. Henry Blanke produced and Michael Curtiz directed; they have reason to be content with the outcome. It is this reviewer's opinion, however, that the picture would fare better in less footage.

Running time, 124 minutes. "G."* Release date, not set.

RED KANN.

*"G" denotes general classification.

Lexey Dies, Veteran With Warner Circuit

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 30. — Jack Lexey, district manager for Warner Theatres in West Philadelphia, died suddenly in his sleep here last night at the age of 55. He was associated with the circuit for 22 years, before it was taken over by Warners and when it was known as the Stanley Company.

Lexey was house manager of the circuit's Broadway, Uptown and other key houses before becoming a district manager. His wife, a son and a daughter survive. Funeral arrangements have not been set yet.

Name Five 'M.C.'s'

Milton Berle, Frank Fay, Harry Hershfield, Ed Sullivan and Danton Walker have been named masters of ceremonies for the 16th annual dance and entertainment of the Press Photographers Association on Friday at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

'Velvet' Opening in 10 Cities, 12 Houses

M-G-M will hold a 10-city engagement of "National Velvet" in 12 theatres starting tomorrow.

The Paramount, Miami; and the Sheridan and Beach, Miami Beach, will open tomorrow; the State, Houston, Feb. 7; Palace, Indianapolis; Grand, Atlanta; State, Syracuse; Midland, Kansas City; Boyd, Philadelphia; Des Moines and Roosevelt, Des Moines, on Feb. 8, and the Center, Salt Lake City, Feb. 9.

2 Maine Houses Burn

BOSTON, Jan. 30.—The series of theatre fires which has swept the country in recent weeks has taken its toll of New England houses with two Maine theatres the most recent to be hit. The State in Prescott, owned by Lloyd Bridgham, now with the Navy, was completely destroyed, while the Central, an M. and P. house in Biddeford, was damaged.

'Dimes' Drive Will Run to Feb. 4

(Continued from page 1)

Paralysis, having a similar experience in its general drive, is extending its campaign to Feb. 15.

Before sending wires to the state chairmen, Schenck's committee had assurances of continuing the drive over next weekend from the following: Harry Kalmine, Warners; Sol Schwartz, RKO; Charles C. Moskowitz and J. R. Vogel, Loew's; Charles Skouras, Fox West Coast; David Weinstock, Raybon Theatres; Max Cohen, Cinema Circuit; I. J. Hoffman, Warner Bros. Connecticut; R. J. O'Donnell, Interstate; Jack Kirsch, Illinois.

In many cases where hold-over attractions are being played, theatres are pushing the drive through an entire second week.

Loew's Theatres, in the first five days of the current 'Dimes' campaign, have collected $285,599, against $237,961 during a like period last year. RKO Theatres report $62,000 for five days, an increase of 22 per cent over 1944.

Many Film Stars at Washington Observances

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Among the film stars who appeared here last night at various observances of the President's birthday were Alan Ladd, Monty Woolley, Danny Kaye, Linda Darnell, Joe E. Brown, Susanna Foster, Myrna Loy, Margaret O'Brien, George Murphy, Jane Wyman, Veronica Lake, Kay Kyser, Georgia Carroll, Gale Storm, Charles Bickford, Victor Borge, Gene Kelly, Ella Logan, Victor Moore and Hal McIntyre and his orchestra.

Waldorf Party Here

Wendy Barrie and Mona Barry represented the screen and stage as hostesses for 10 wounded service men at a dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel here last night preceding the President's birthday ball there. Entertainment was supervised by G. S. Eyssell, managing director of the Radio City Music Hall, and the entertainers included Jack Benny, the Music Hall Glee Club, Joan McCracken, the DeMarcos, Benny Goodman and Beatrice Lillie.

$72,000 in 'Dimes' in Coast's Record Drive

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30.—Record collections, surpassing the 1944 mark by 20 per cent, were reported here today, at the official close of the March of Dimes drive, by the industry's campaign chairman, Fred S. Meyers. A total of $72,000 was subscribed by 20,000 individuals.

Barrymore Replaces DeMille on the Air

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30.—Lionel Barrymore will appear on the CBS Lux Radio Theatre air program until Cecil B. DeMille's appeal to the Supreme Court of a Superior Court decision upholding the right of the American Federation of Radio Artists to levy a one dollar assessment against DeMille, is settled. The fee was assessed by AFRA to fight a closed shop proposal on the California ballot, which was defeated last November. Barrymore first appeared for DeMille on last Monday night's broadcast.

Minorities' Views For Screen, Radio

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30.—Organized for the purpose of rectifying what it terms 'inaccurate representation' on screen and radio of the status of Negroes and members of other racial minorities in American life, the Inter-racial Film and Radio Guild, Inc., is amassing statistics for incorporation in a booklet which, according to an IFRG spokesman, will be furnished to producers for observance as a 'code' in the production of films and radio programs. When this has been done, it was stated, a larger organization will be formed with a membership consisting of Negroes and members of all other racial minorities.

The IFRG was formed on a small scale last Summer, following the convocation here of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and has broadened its scope to embrace a national sponsoring committee of six members, in addition to a nine-member board of directors. Adam Clayton Powell, New York, is chairman of the national board, and Norman O. Houston, secretary-treasurer of Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Co., is chairman of the directorate. Executives of Tuskegee Institute, the NAACP, and the National Urban League, are among the organization's officials.

Two Park-Ins for Coast

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 30.—Park-In Theatres, newly formed organization of which Seth D. Perkins is president, is to open two new 650-car open-air theatres in California, according to announcement. Locations were not disclosed.

Review

"Here Come the Co-Eds"

(*Universal*)

Hollywood, Jan. 30

THE Messrs. Abbott and Costello go a good deal of the way back to first principles of slapstick at several points in this undertaking, eliciting from a public that has never had too much of that commodity in its simplest terms, at least half-a-dozen rounds of all-out laughter. At other times Phil Spitalny and his all-girl orchestra entertain with music and song of a kind that furnish directly contrasted relief. By and large, it is the best Abbott-Costello comedy among the last several, and the producing company has supplied plenty of additional names with which to round out the billing.

Standout sequences are an oyster-stew bit which reminds of the boys' hilarious first films, a wrestling match that rocks the rafters, a basket-ball game in which Costello believes himself the world's greatest girl center, and a song number in which he works with Peggy Ryan in simultation of Donald O'Connor. In addition to Miss Ryan's, the names of Martha O'Driscoll and Lon Chaney are available for marquee purposes.

The scene is principally a girl's college, where the boys are employed as assistant care-takers and take care, not well, but altogether amusingly, of everybody's business but their own. Producer John Grant collaborated with Arthur T. Horman on the script, based on an original by Edmund L. Hartman. Jean Yarbrough directed with a nice eye and ear for audience effect.

Seven songs by Jack Brooks and Edgar Fairchild, four of them handled by the Spitalny group and three by Miss Ryan, supply the musical complement.

Running time, 88 minutes. "G."* Release date, Feb. 2.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"G" denotes general classification.

NTS Issues Manual

National Theatre Supply has issued a new projection room planning book, it is reported here by A. E. Meyer, manager of the NTS's projection equipment division. The book contains new material and suggestions supplementing the features found in previous editions, and is now available through NTS branches in key cities.

Nazis Ruin WB Offices

All Warner offices in Greece were demolished and burned by the Germans before their evacuation, according to word received here by the company. It is assumed that other companies also lost their branches. Contents of film vaults, however, were undamaged, the cable indicated.

17 Shorts Named For Academy Poll

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30.—Seven companies have nominated 17 short subjects for consideration in the 17th annual awards competition conducted by the Academy of M. P. Arts and Sciences. They are:

One Reel Subjects: "Movie Pests," M-G-M; "Jammin' the Blues," Warners; "50th Anniversary of Motion Pictures," Columbia; "Who's Who in Animal Land," Paramount; "Blue Grass Gentlemen," 20th-Fox.

Two-Reel Subjects: "Bombalera," Paramount; "I Won't Play," Warners; "Main Street Today," M-G-M; "Feather Your Nest," RKO; "Gents Without Cents," Columbia.

Cartoons: "And To Think I Saw It on Mulberry Street," Paramount; "My Boy Johnny," 20th-Fox; "Mouse Trouble," M-G-M; "Swooner Crooner," Warners; "The Dog, Cat and Canary," Columbia; "Fish Fry," Universal; "How to Play Football," RKO.

Final judging of the films will take place the night of Feb. 6 at a special screening for Academy members and guests at the Marquis Theatre. All Academy members present at the showing will vote for winners in the three classifications. Announcement will be made at the annual awards presentation on March 15, at Grauman's Chinese.

'Powder' Tradeshow

M-G-M will trade show "Keep Your Powder Dry" on Feb. 21 in all exchange centers, except Omaha, where the film will be screened on Feb. 19.

Announcing

"FOR DISTINGUISHED FILM ACHIEVEMENT"

The First Hollywood Writers Mobilization Award to *Lester Cowan's*

"TOMORROW—THE WORLD"

This award was made by the Hollywood Writers Mobilization—a group of 3500 eminent artists—"to focus public attention on films distinguished for maturity of outlook as well as sound entertainment value." We are proud that "Tomorrow—the World!" has been so highly honored and we are sincere in our belief that you will find in this great and daring picture an experience you will enjoy and long remember.

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and the sensational SKIPPY HOMEIER
in "TOMORROW—THE WORLD!"
with AGNES MOOREHEAD and JOAN CARROLL
A United Artists Release

Independents Join Raw Stock Group

(*Continued from page* 1)

try committee several weeks ago, as reported yesterday in *Motion Picture Daily*.

The enlarged industry advisory committee which will meet with WPB officials tomorrow is expected to include: Barney Balaban, Paramount; N. Peter Rathvon, RKO; Jack Cohn, Columbia; Samuel Schneider, Warners; John J. O'Connor, Universal; W. C. Michel, 20th Century-Fox; Gradwell Sears, United Artists; Walter L. Titus, Republic; Steve Broidy, Monogram; Leo J. McCarthy, PRC; William F. Rodgers, M-G-M representative on the committee is not expected to be present. Also, added independent and re-issue company representatives expected to include A. W. Schwalberg, International Pictures; James Mulvey, for Samuel Goldwyn; Neil Agnew, Vanguard; Roy Disney, Walt Disney Productions; R. M. Savini, Astor Pictures, and a representative of Film Classics.

Schaefer Leaves

George J. Schaefer, chairman of the War Activities Committee and industry liaison with the WPB, who will also be present at the meeting, left for Washington last night, and Sears and Edward C. Raftery have been in Washington since Tuesday.

Zanuck Will Receive 'One World' Award

For his production of "socially significant films," including "Wilson," "Grapes of Wrath" and "Public Enemy," Darryl F. Zanuck of 20th Century-Fox will receive a "One World" award at a dinner in memory of the late Wendell L. Willkie at the Hotel Astor here Feb. 18.

Similar awards will go to Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff, president of the Radio Corporation of America, for his expansion of radio as a medium of popular education and entertainment, and to Kent Cooper, executive director of the Associated Press, for his 30-year-old crusade for freedom of international news exchange.

July 7 Deadline for 2d MGM Book Award

Constance Smith, director of M-G-M's annual novel award, yesterday announced the second annual contest for the best novel, to open June 15 and close July 7, the winning title to be announced about August 15. "Green Dolphin," by Elizabeth Goudge, was last year's winner.

Watch
U. A. releases
bearing
G.C.F.
Presents

School Holidays Help N. Y. Houses Get Good Grosses

A partial school holiday last week and the closing of schools this week, starting today, for fuel conservation measures, is more than offsetting the effect of the cold wave on grosses of New York's first-run theatres, with the result that theatres generally are reporting excellent receipts this week.

The Strand, Palace, Radio City Music Hall, Roxy and Capitol, all with new films, are headed for big weeks. With an outstanding $33,000 recorded for the first three days for "Objective, Burma," and a stage show headed by Artie Shaw and his new band, the Strand is headed for a near-record $75,000 for its first week. The theatre is opening daily at 7:15 A.M., but the show runs over three hours and 20 minues.

'Woman' Terrific

"The Woman in the Window" is proving a terrific grosser at the Palace, $28,600 being recorded in the first four days; a record $41,000 is expected for the first week.

A big $120,000 is expected for the first week of "A Song to Remember" and a stage show at Radio City Music Hall on the basis of $75,000 grossed in the first four days; the film will probably remain at the Music Hall for at least four weeks. Booked for only two weeks, "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier" is proving a surprise grosser at the Roxy, with $87,000 recorded for the first week. A two-week commitment had been made for the accompanying "Cafe Zanzibar Revue" stage show, featuring Bill Robinson, Louis Armstrong and band, and others. "Hangover Square" will follow.

"The Thin Man Goes Home," with a stage show featuring Frankie Carle and his band, at the Capitol, brought $55,000 for the first four days and a neat $70,000 is expected for the first week.

The Paramount, Victoria, Globe and Astor are counting profitable holdover weeks. The Paramount rolled up a big $67,000 for the fifth week of "Here Come the Waves" and a stage show featuring Woody Herman and his band; the combination is continuing for a sixth week. "The Fighting Lady" brought the Victoria a big $27,500 for a second week, following the first week's record-breaking $34,000; indications are that the film will continue for at least six weeks more.

"Tomorrow the World" at the Globe will get an excellent $16,500 for its final eight days. "Three Caballeros" will open there Saturday. "Meet Me in St. Louis" brought a big $31,000 for a ninth week at the Astor and will conclude its run next Sunday night with the house remaining dark until Feb. 9, when a new policy starts with Samuel Goldwyn's "Princess and the Pirate."

Others Also Score

Other theatres are also doing better-than-average business: "The Keys of the Kingdom" is expected to give the Rivoli a substantial $35,000 for a fifth week; "Can't Help Singing" completed a fifth and final week at the Criterion with a good $21,500 with "The Suspect" opening there today "To Have and Have Not" concluded a 16th and final week at the Hollywood with a neat $17,500; "Roughly Speaking" will open there today.

"Mr. Emmanuel" is holding up well at the Gotham with $13,000 expected for a fourth week; it will continue. Second and final week for "The Man in Half Moon Street" is expected to give the Rialto $6,500 and "Destiny" will open there Friday. "On Approval" is expected to bring a mild $5,500 in its first week at the Republic.

IATSE Considering Charter for MPOE

(*Continued from page* 1)

Union. Russell Moss, MPOE executive vice-president and business manager, has refused to commit his union to joining the new international in view of allegedly high per capita dues and possible jurisdictional problems, it is said.

Moss would like to bring his group under the jurisdiction of the IATSE but it was not until the recent Cincinnati meeting of the new Office Workers International that the matter of affiliation was brought to a head. Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, is understood to be favorably inclined to MPOE. It is known that IATSE has exercised direction in MPOE for many years and supported the union in its strike at Warner Bros. in August, 1942.

Disney Here for Premiere

Roy Disney, executive vice-president and general manager of Walt Disney Productions, arrived here from Hollywood, yesterday, to attend the Broadway premiere of Disney's "The Three Caballeros" at the Globe Theatre on Saturday. While here he will confer with RKO executives on plans for domestic and foreign distribution.

Photoplay Winners Named Next Month

Photoplay Magazine gold medal awards for the most popular picture, actor and actress of 1944 will be announced during the week of Feb. 19.

A new awards plan was outlined yesterday at a luncheon at the Sherry Netherlands Hotel by O. J. Elder, president of McFadden Publications; Carroll Rheinstrom, general manager; Herb Drake, general promotion manager; Joe Wiegers, publicity manager, also of McFadden; and Fred Sammis, editorial director; Helen Gilmore, editor, and Adele Fletcher, associate editor, all of *Photoplay*, were also present.

Film representatives present were: Howard Dietz, William Heineman, Si Seadler, Al Wilkie, Leo Katcher, Earl Wingart, Herb Crooker, Charles Reed Jones, Frank Rosenberg, Jack Goldstein, Hank Linet, Rutgers Neilson, Larry Golob and Hortense Schorr, and trade press members.

Jovan East Again

CHICAGO, Jan. 30.—James Jovan of Globe Film Co., here, will leave for the East again this week to arrange for a premiere of "Behind the Enemy Lines" either in Boston or Philadelphia.

Goldwyn Urges Raw Stock Allocations For All Producers

(*Continued from page* 1)

tributors who, by holding ration cards, have in many cases possessed the power of life or death over an independent producer."

"No producer complains," Goldwyn's statement continues, "because there is not enough raw stock to go around. They all know that there is a war on. Producers do complain that during a war the vast accumulations of finished films by the producer-distributor combinations is in effect a most dangerous and unsound hoarding. Some of these films have been stored away for a year or more. We must prevent these accumulations and recognize that, in effect, they constitute a hoarding that will strangle the creative efforts of the independent producer at the very time when his importance in this industry is greater than it has ever been."

Goldwyn's statement added that the purpose "of film rationing is the public good and for the public interest. In it, the independent producer has a great stake, and the public has a great stake in the independent producer."

For Foreign Films

"A last point," it concludes, "is that raw stock should be made available in increasing quantities for the distribution in the U. S. of pictures made in England and other foreign countries. An honest realization of the place of films in international understanding and in commerce would dictate this as basic and essential."

In reply to a question as to whether the independent producers might not "be crying before they were hurt," Goldwyn said he was not speaking for himself but for others whom, he said, have been making pictures for years and now may not be granted any raw stock unless a distributor agrees to give it to them out of the distributors' allocation. Goldwyn left the impression that his own raw stock needs would be taken care of.

The producer, who plans to be in New York for four weeks, declined to identify his next production. "I don't want my pictures publicized," he said, smiling.

Goldwyn said his and David O. Selznick's decision to acquire use of the Astor Theatre was made after they had had pictures "shelved for months in New York. We had to take care of them."

Trilling Is Installed By Bookers Here

Motion Picture Bookers Club, here, at its annual installation dinner at the "400" Restaurant, last night installed George Trilling, film buyer with Fabian Theatres as reelected president of the club.

Guest speakers included: Henry Randel, Film Board of Trade; Sam Rinzler, Randforce; Harry Brandt, Max Cohen and Si Fabian.

35 Writers See 'Italy'

Over 35 members of the Writer's War Board were guests of Richard de Rochemont at a special screening of March of Time's "Report on Italy," here, yesterday.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Jan. 30

BARBARA STANWYCK will star in "The Perfect Marriage" as her first in a series for Hal Wallis Productions. . . . Randolph Scott has been engaged by Benedict Bogeaus to co-star with Charles Laughton in "Captain Kidd." . . . Roy Rogers' next for Republic will be "Sunset on the Eldorado."

•

Lou Edleman has been assigned to prepare "Wallflower" as his next for Warners. . . . Bob Haymes has been set by Columbia for the male lead in "Blonde from Brooklyn." . . . Henry Koster will direct "Brighton Beach" for producer Joe Pasternak at M-G-M. . . . RKO has borrowed Ingrid Bergman from David O. Selznick to co-star with Bing Crosby in Leo McCarey's production of "The Bells of St. Mary's."

•

Paramount producers Pine and Thomas have signed Regis Toomey for a lead in "Follow That Woman." . . . Mischa Auer has been engaged by Popular Pictures for an important part in "Ten Little Indians." . . . Joseph H. Lewis has been set to direct "The Falcon in San Francisco," which Maurice Geraghty will produce for RKO Radio.

SAG Petitions NLRB To Limit SPU Field

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30.—The Screen Actors Guild today filed a petition in intervention with the National Labor Relations Board, making the specific request that the Screen Players Union be limited to jurisdiction over extra players only, exclusive of performers doing bits, stunts and singing. The petition sets forth the claim that the NLRB interpretation of the SPU province creates duplicate jurisdiction and presages a condition under which SAG "would naturally be compelled to use its economic strength to see that all acting jobs are given its members who do acting work exclusively."

The guild's board of directors last night approved changes in by-laws, necessitated by elimination of the Class 'B' membership. Chiefly internal, the modifications will be submitted to Class 'A' members by mail ballot.

SCG Gives Up Fight For Reissue Share

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30.—The Screen Cartoonists Guild's executive board has decided not to appeal from the War Labor Board decision of last week in the SCG-Walt Disney contract dispute. The studio had previously indicated satisfaction with the decision, considered important tradewise as ending, at least for the present, any attempt by the workers to obtain financial participation in revenue from films reissued or used for television. The WLB decision denied the SCG's demand for a 20 per cent share in rental grosses from those sources.

M-G-M Luncheon on Contest Here Today

A bathing "queen" will be selected today at an M-G-M luncheon in the Hotel Astor, to be known as "Miss Anniversary." She will receive $500 in war bonds. Two runners-up will be awarded $300 and $200 in war bonds, respectively.

The contest was launched last June by Howard Dietz, M-G-M vice-president and director of advertising-publicity, and William R. Ferguson, exploitation director, as part of M-G-M's 20th anniversary observance, and was sponsored in cooperation with the Swim for Health Association. M-G-M executives, trade and news press representatives will be at the luncheon.

Sack Increases Series

DALLAS, Jan. 30.—Sack Amusement Enterprises has increased the number of releases in its Negro band and "name" act series from six to eight,

Fly, Austrian to Talk at TPC Meet

James L. Fly, former chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and Ralph Austrian, executive vice-president of RKO Television Corp., will be guest speakers at a luncheon of the Television Press Club of New York Feb. 6.

Fly will discuss the recent FCC allocation of frequencies for television and other services, and Austrian will cover merchandising problems. New officers of the Television Press Club are: Stanley Kempner, president; Lewis Winner, vice-president; Elizabeth Forsling, secretary, and Clifford Denton, treasurer. T. R. Kennedy is TPC publicity head.

3 More Mutual Outlets

Mutual Broadcasting is adding three stations to its network, WHKK, Akron, joining Feb. 25, and WFIG, Sumter, S. C., and WMLT, Dublin, Ga., to join shortly.

Irene Kuhn Named To NAPRC Board

Irene Kuhn, assistant director of the NBC department of information, has been named to the board of directors of the National Association of Public Relations Counsel.

Formerly with MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Mrs. Kuhn has been with NBC since 1940. She was on leave of absence for several months to handle publicity for the Dewey Presidential campaign.

SPG Hearings Opened

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30.—The War Labor Board today opened hearings in the Screen Publicists Guild demand upon the producers for contract revisions creating three new classifications in its senior membership and other modifications.

• PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD • PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD • PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD •

Who
is the whole nation's most popular movie actress?

Who
is the whole nation's most popular movie actor?

What
is the nation's picture of the year?

TO FIND OUT...

DR. GEORGE GALLUP'S AUDIENCE RESEARCH, INC.

POLLS THE AMERICAN PUBLIC

FOR PHOTOPLAY!

Starting in 1944, Photoplay's Gold Medal Award—the oldest annual award in the industry—will go each year to the American Public's choices.

The same scientific methods will be used which have enabled Dr. Gallup to predict the winner in five presidential elections as well as scores of others.

Will the Public confirm the critics' choice?

Will the Public confirm the box-office records?

Will the Public confirm the many individual polls of editors, special reader groups, and the industry itself?

See Photoplay for March for the final results.

• PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD • PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD • PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD •

Proposes Closing One Day Weekly

The voluntary closing of theatres one day weekly, where they operate seven days a week, is proposed for the duration of the present fuel emergency, by Jesse L. Stern, as president of the Unaffiliated Independent Exhibitors, here.

The proposal suggests the closings regardless of the fuel supply on hand, and has been forwarded to Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, who is requested to call a meeting of exhibitors for the purpose. Stern committed his organization to cooperate.

Extend Exemptions From 'Brownout'

(*Continued from page* 1)

power plants of the cities of Monroe, La., and Lamar and Pagosa Springs, Colo.; the Hillman Light and Power Co., Hillman, Mich.; the Copper District Power Co., Ontonagon, Mich., and the Meadow River Lumber Co., Rainelle, W. Va.

San Diego exhibitors and other consumers there will have to comply with the brownout order, it was explained by Edward Falck, director of the OWU, because utilities there use fuel oil regularly for generating power. Catalina Island is kept under the order because its station uses diesel oil.

The OWU has rejected petitions for exemption from utilities in Foston, Minn.; Fairbuy, Hastings and Columbus, Neb.; McPherson, Clay Center, St. John and Meade, Kans.; Gillette, Wyo.; Raton, N. Mex., and Lyon Falls, N. Y.

Exempted yesterday were parts of upper New York, the Pacific Northwest, and most of Texas; they will not have to comply because fuel is sufficiently plentiful in those localities.

State Dept. Effects Transfer of Funds

(*Continued from page* 1)

DAILY on last Nov. 17 reported that U. S. distributors had made application for transfer of the blocked funds, estimated at $3,000,000 at that time, and since greatly increased, to help finance their physical reestablishment in France.

Although British film companies were able to collect their earnings in North Africa because there was plenty of pound exchange available, the American distributors were in a less favorable position because of the absence of a dollar exchange. To meet this situation, all of the money secured by the OWI from distribution of American features, and monies accumulated since the OWI relinquished control, was blocked in the names of the companies and transferred to Metropolitan France, where the companies can now draw upon it, saving them the necessity of sending money in and saving them also the loss they would have had to take in securing exchange.

Exhibitors Entertained at Paramount Sales Meeting

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 30.—A two-day Paramount sales meeting, the first of a series of district meetings scheduled by Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution, was concluded here today with a luncheon for circuit heads, independent exhibitors and circuit advertising men.

The home office delegation consisted of Robert M. Gillham, Claude Lee and George Smith. Del Goodman, Pacific Coast district manager, headed the delegation of branch managers and salesmen from the Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Portland branches who attended. Among the exhibitor guests at today's luncheon were: Charles Thall, Dick Spier and Herman Kersken of Fox West Coast; Robert McNeil, Gene Emmick, Verne Taylor and Roy Cooper of the McNeil & Naify Circuit; George Mann and William David of George Mann Circuit; George, Al and Henry Nasser of Nasser Bros.; Joseph and Abe Blumenfeld of Blumenfeld Circuit; Gerald Hardy of Westland Circuit; Robert Lippert, Lippert Circuit; Ben Levin, General Theatrical Circuit; Harry P. Franklin, Goldberg Circuit, and Mike Barobic, Tacoma, Wash.

Advertising directors present included: Fay Reeder, FWC, San Francisco; Vic Gauntlett, Seattle, and Earl Hunt, Portland, of Evergreen Circuit, and Harry Hunsaker of McNeil & Naify, Reno.

The meeting included discussions of new product and sales plans for it by Reagan and Smith; advertising and publicity plans for the new product, by Gillham, and exhibitor relations, by Lee.

Para. Officials at Hotel Presentation

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 30.—A 'hotel' with accommodations for 200 servicewomen, located in the Paramount Building here, was formally opened last night by the 12th Naval District branch of the Naval Aid Auxiliary. The two floors were made available gratis by Paramount, owners of the building.

Paramount home office executives, including Charles M. Reagan, vice-president and general sales manager. Robert M. Gillham, head of advertising and publicity; Claude Lee, director of public relations, and George Smith, Western division sales manager, attended the opening. They were accompanied by Del Goodman, Pacific Coast district manager, and Neal East, San Francisco branch manager.

War Program Need Blocks Freon Flow

(*Continued from page* 1)

inability to operate their systems next Summer are daily being authorized to replenish their gas supply.

As a result of an extensive program for reconstruction of additional production facilities, WPB officials early this month found that output had reached a point where it was adequate for all needs, present and potential, and sought removal of the restrictions on the use of freon for 'comfort cooling' in order that the new supply might be distributed as promptly as possible.

It is now learned, however, that claimants for some of the war programs using the same basic materials, including the aviation gasoline program, were opposed to any relaxation of restrictions which might increase the drain on those ingredients.

A spokesman for the Board said that while freon plants are not producing at capacity, they are turning sufficient gas out for all immediate purposes and it will be possible to extend relief to all exhibitors whose cooling systems are badly depleted. No theatre will have to close for lack of refrigerant, he said, but the schedule of establishments to which deliveries without specific authorization are prohibited, including theatres, still stands.

Altec Signs Three More

Altec has signed service contracts with three more circuits; they are Associated Theatres, Michigan; Twin-City Theatre Corp., St. Paul and Robert L. Lippert Circuit, San Francisco.

Para. Officials to Meet Partners

(*Continued from page* 1)

ward L. Hyman, director of theatres in the Northern division, and Max Fellerman and Joseph Kinsky. R. M. Weitman, managing director of the New York Paramount, will leave New York on Feb. 7, and join the others on the Coast.

The executives will be guests at the installation banquet of the Variety Club of Michigan, on Feb. 5, with Earl Hudson, president of United Detroit Theatres, Paramount associate, the toastmaster. In Chicago, Feb. 6, meetings will be held with John Balaban and J. J. Rubens, head of Publix-Great States Theatres. They will then leave for Salt Lake City, arriving Feb. 8, for a two-day meeting with Tracy Barham, Intermountain Theatres executive.

Goldenson will then proceed to the studio for conferences with Y. Frank Freeman and Henry Ginsberg, studio and production executives, while Hyman, Fellerman and Kinsky will go to San Francisco for meetings with theatre associates there, arriving in Los Angeles on Feb. 13. Conferences will be held there with Marco Wolf operator of the Paramount Downtown and Hollywood.

The entire group will leave Feb. 16 for New York, stopping over in Phoenix, for conferences with Harry L. Nace, head of Publix-Rickards Nace, Inc., in connection with the opening of a new theatre in Phoenix

Hensler to 'Classics'

DES MOINES, Jan. 30.—Larry Hensler, former Monogram exchange manager and more recently with the local Warner branch, has joined Film Classics of Iowa and Nebraska.

Few Houses Closed By Coal Shortage

With the lifting yesterday of the 72-hour freight embargo imposed in the East by the Office of Defense Transportation in an effort to save coal, most theatres which had closed in the area had enough fuel in prospect with which to continue operating, although some in scattered localities were closed, at least part time, under emergency authority given mayors by the Solid Fuels Administration.

A late report from Rochester, N. Y., showed five houses closed in two cities near there: the Geneva and Regent in Geneva, and the Auburn, Jefferson and Palace in Auburn, all of the Schine circuit. In Albany and Syracuse, all theatres, between 35 and 40, were ordered closed, although many of them, especially those using oil, had fuel enough to continue.

Cleveland Closes Monday

Cleveland houses will be closed Monday only next week after closing the first two days of this week, Mayor Thomas A. Burke said last night. In Alliance, Ohio, Tri-State's Mount Union and Columbia theatres are closed for the duration of the emergency, with the Strand and Morrison operating full time.

In New York, where Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia had announced that no amusement places would be asked to close but that they would get coal only after the needs of homes and essential industries had been met, no closings were reported, but two unidentified film theatres and three legitimate houses, the Cort, National and Broadway, were said to have sent in pleas for emergency coal rations. From Cincinnati came word that the situation there was not critical but that officials in many Ohio communities were meeting to consider the need for closing public places.

In Buffalo last night Mayor Joseph J. Kelly ordered heat reduced to 55 or 60 degrees in practically all public buildings, including theatres, this temperature being designed to keep pipes from freezing.

Para. Will Release BMOI's 'Approaches'

Paramount will distribute "Western Approaches," British Ministry of Information feature documentary, in color, dealing with the Atlantic convoy system, according to Thomas Baird, director of the film division of the British Information Services here.

The film will probably not be released until after April 1, due to difficulties in securing color prints. It will be sold to theatres under arrangements similar to other BMOI feature documentaries, like "One of Our Aircraft Is Missing." Baird returned from California early this week, where he assisted in cutting 10 minutes from the original running time of 83 minutes on "Western Approaches."

Para. Fourth Block Reported by Reagan

Paramount's fourth block and national tradeshow dates, were announced yesterday by Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution. The block and showing dates include: "Bring on the Girls" and "The Unseen," to be tradeshown Feb. 16, and "Salty O'Rourke" and "High Powered," tradeshown Feb. 20.

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 23 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1945 TEN CENTS

15 Films Are Over Average In 16 Cities

'Meet Me in St. Louis,' Highest with $40,300

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

"Meet Me in St. Louis," in fourth weeks in three theatres in Los Angeles, in a sixth week in Philadelphia, and in initial weeks in five other cities checked, leads in MOTION PICTURE DAILY's survey of weekly grosses in 16 key cities, excluding New York City, for the week ending Jan. 31, on the basis of reports from correspondents. Fifteen films were above average at first runs during the week in the cities reported on. Next highest ranking grosses, according to the reports, were: "Keys of the Kingdom," "Here Come the Waves," "To Have and Have Not"

(*Continued on page* 9)

Tennessee Officials Hit 'Brownout'

NASHVILLE, Jan. 31.—There is a strong probability that fire and police officials in Tennessee cities may work against the 'brownout' lighting restrictions for theatres and other places of public assembly by declaring them both fire and safety hazards. City Commissioner Boyle of the Depart-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Report Goldwyn and Selznick 2nd House

Boston, Jan. 31.—It is reported here that Samuel Goldwyn and David O. Selznick have acquired the Majestic Theatre as a local showcase for their product. The Majestic is a modern, downtown house now using roadshows. The lease on it, held by E. M. Loew for several months, was relinquished this year to the Shuberts.

A New York spokesman for Goldwyn and Selznick, who recently acquired the Astor Theatre as their Broadway showcase—their first — could not be reached last night for comment on the Boston report.

Lights Go Out, So Do Conventions

Effective at 12:01 this morning, Government orders officially 'browned-out' theatre marquee lighting in most sections of the country and put the clamp on conventions requiring the attendance of more than 50 people.

Harvey Day Leaves Terry-Toons' Post

It became known yesterday that the 15-year relationship between Terry-Toons, Inc., and Harvey Day has been terminated.

Harvey Day

Day, one of the most widely known men in the sales field, became general sales manager of Terry-Toons shortly after the cartoon reel was established by Paul Terry. Previously he had been sales manager for International Newsreel, Kinograms and general field representative for Edu-

(*Continued on page* 11)

Cancel 1944 Stock Orders

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The WPB today issued formal orders canceling all authorizations to use 35mm raw stock issued to both motion picture and newsreel producers and distributors prior to Dec. 29.

The WPB action was not unanticipated, it having been made known early this month that 1944 authorizations would not carry over, but the order was in conformity with a ruling of the Board. All persons whose authorizations are now ineffective have been notified by WPB and advised to apply for new authorizations on Form WPB-2165, copies of which were sent

(*Continued on page* 4)

Confirm Masters' Odeon Resignation

TORONTO, Jan. 31.—The resignation of Haskell Masters as general manager of Odeon Theatres of Canada, forecast earlier by MOTION PICTURE DAILY, was announced here today.

No successor to Masters has been named yet nor has the latter announced his future plans, although he is said to be considering several offers, one of which may be a new post with United Artists, for whom he was

(*Continued on page* 9)

See Delay on Allocation of '45 Raw Stock

WPB Expected to Act By Weekend, However

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Members of the reorganized 21-man industry advisory committee will meet here tomorrow with War Production Board officials to discuss the raw stock situation and work out new policies to govern a permanent allocation system.

The actual allocations to individual companies for the current quarter are expected to be announced before the end of the week, but a spokesman for the Board today expressed doubt that they would be reported to the committee.

The new allocation policy, it was learned, is to be framed in such a way

(*Continued on page* 4)

NLRB Opens Probe Of SAG-SPU Fight

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 31.—Ivar Peterson, National Labor Relations Board representative, is here from Washington to check on the facts in the Screen Actors Guild dispute with the Screen Players Union regarding jurisdiction over extra players performing bits, stunts or singing.

Possibilities that the conflict might

(*Continued on page* 9)

'No Time for Allied and WAC to Quarrel,' Fabian

"This is a helluva time to start quarreling among ourselves," Si Fabian, independent circuit operator, declared here yesterday, speaking as theatres division chairman of the War Activities Committee, in answering a resolution criticizing the WAC recently adopted by National Allied's board of directors, meeting in Columbus, Ohio. His statement follows:

"I realize that the war has reached that stage where our nerves may be frayed, but it is more important than ever, now, that we keep our ranks closed and have unity of thought and action so that we can carry on our war effort to the final victory. It would be a sad thing if the industry, especially exhibitors, spoiled our splendid record by bickering in the final chapter of the story.

"Up to now, I have not received a copy of the reported resolution. I cannot find that Martin Smith or any Allied official has made direct suggestions or complaints. Apparently, that resolution was just something for a press release and, judging by lack of any constructive action, was intended as a 'monkey wrench' to gum up the war machine of WAC, rather than as an implement to improve our usefulness.

Si Fabian

"If I did not fear that such ill-timed words might hamper the WAC in its forthcoming Red Cross cam-

(*Continued on page* 9)

Rathvon Sets Meets On Red Cross Week

N. Peter Rathvon, national chairman of the industry's Red Cross 'War Fund Week,' yesterday announced a series of meetings to be held in key cities during February, to coordinate theatre Red Cross drive activities. The opening meeting, in New York, is set for Feb. 19, to be conducted by

(*Continued on page* 4)

In This Issue

Motion Picture Daily's **booking chart appears on page 10; Review of "Thunderhead, Son of Flicka," page 4.**

'Dimes' Collection Has Biggest Day

National committeemen of the industry's March of Dimes drive predicted that yesterday would be one of the biggest collection days of the campaign.

In previous industry drives, the collection period usually came to an end on Jan. 30, but this year, the day following the President's birthday was included. Hundreds of exhibitors are extending the drive over the weekend to make up for attendance losses during the first days of the drive, due to weather conditions.

Theatre collections will end Feb. 4, although some houses with holdovers will continue through a second week, because there will be no duplication of audiences.

Arthur Kelly New British Club Head

Arthur W. Kelly, president of Eagle-Lion Films, American representative for J. Arthur Rank of England, has been named president of the British Club of New York.

Kelly helped sponsor the club, which has a membership of both British and American nationals, in 1927.

Rites for Muchmore, Industry Veteran

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 31.—Funeral services were held at Neodesha, Kan., for John A. Muchmore, who died late last week in Kansas University Hospital here.

Muchmore, associated with the late A. D. Flinton in distribution many years ago, was office manager for M-G-M here for several years. With R. H. Patt he formed the Holms Projector Sales Co. in 1940 for distribution of theatre supplies and equipment. In 1942 he and Patt became franchise holders for PRC here, and a year later they were joined by Beverly Miller, who became general manager.

Surviving is his widow.

Mancusco Dies Overseas

Pfc Al Mancuso, formerly with Cosmo-Sileo, still photographers for many film companies here, died in action covering, photographically, the war in Europe. His brother, CPO Ben Mancuso has arrived home on furlough after more than two years in the South Pacific.

Bill Sharples Dies

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 31.—Bill Sharples, 58, radio director who is credited with aiding careers of many motion picture and radio stars, died in Queen of Angels Hospital here Monday night. He is survived by his widow and a daughter, Joan.

James Gillern Killed

SCRANTON, Pa., Jan. 31.—Pvt. James Gillern, formerly with Comerford Theatres, was fatally wounded on a rifle range at an Army camp in Arkansas.

Personal Mention

JACK GOLDSTEIN, Eastern director of publicity and exploitation for Vanguard Films and the Selznick studio, was in Washington yesterday.

•

JIM TUFFY, manager of the American Theatre, Pittston, Pa., is the father of a daughter born last week in Mercy Hospital, Scranton.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Universal Southern and Canadian sales manager, will return here from Dallas tomorrow or Saturday.

•

SAM LEFKOWITZ, United Artists district manager, will return here early next week from Albany and Oneida.

•

H. M. DOHERTY, supervisor of Warner Bros. exchange auditing, will celebrate his 25th year with the company today.

•

JOHN W. MANGHAM, president of Film Classics, Atlanta, has returned there from the company's St. Louis sales meeting.

A. MONTAGUE, Columbia general sales manager, is in Chicago this week for a sales meeting with his Midwest staff.

•

JACK KIRBY, Paramount district manager in Atlanta, has returned there from New York conferences, accompanied by SCOTT LETT, salesman from Charlotte, N. C.

•

IRVING MACK, Chicago Variety Club treasurer, will attend the installation of officers of the Motor City Tent, Detroit, Monday.

•

HARRY GREEN, actor-producer, will undergo an operation at the French Hospital here Saturday.

•

MICHAEL POWELL and EMERIC PRESSBURGER, British production team, will arrive in New York from England about March 15.

•

MAX FELT, operator of the Bluebird, Philadelphia, is recovering from pneumonia at Jewish Hospital there.

•

DEWEY BLOOM of Regal Films, Toronto, is visiting in New York.

RWLB Approves Salt Lake City Wage Rise

The Regional War Labor Board having jurisdiction over the Salt Lake City area has approved 10 per cent retroactive wage increases for shippers, inspectors and poster clerks in Salt Lake City exchanges. The increases are retroactive to Dec. 1, 1942.

Exchange operational supervisors and representatives of the IATSE will meet here tomorrow to set applications for filing with the RWLB for a similar wage increase for service workers in Des Moines exchanges. Approvals have been secured from RWLB's having jurisdiction over 19 of the 31 film exchange centers.

RWLB Mediating Manager Pact Fight

Further discussion on salary and work week provisions were held here yesterday before the Regional War Labor Board in the contract dispute between RKO and Motion Picture Theatre Operating Managers and Assistant Managers Guild, representing managers and assistants in the 40 RKO theatres in the Metropolitan area.

The next meeting before the RWLB will be held Friday, Feb. 9.

Owners Meet Today On Buying Group

Independent New Jersey exhibitors will meet today at the Stacey-Trenton Hotel, Trenton, to formulate organization plans, elect officers, and set tentative contracts for their new buying-booking combine.

Expected to attend are exhibitors who buy both from New York and Philadelphia exchanges. About 70 independent theatres are reportedly already pledged for the combination.

Will Hays Leaves For Coast Tomorrow

Will H. Hays, MPPDA president, will leave for the Coast tomorrow by train for his regular annual Winter visit there. While in Hollywood he will attend the annual meeting of the Association of M. P. Producers. He is scheduled to return to New York in about a month to complete arrangements here for the annual meeting of the MPPDA board of directors, to be held the latter part of March.

Col. Kenneth Clark Is Here from the Front

Col. Kenneth Clark, until recently with a Gen. Mark Clark combat unit on the fighting front in Italy, is back here on leave. He had been visiting Army quarters in Washington for a few days, returning to New York yesterday.

Clark was, for several years, information director of the MPPDA, resigning in 1942 to become a major in the Army's Service of Supply, Washington, from which post he was transferred to Gen. Clark's press relations staff in the Mediterranean.

Wallis' 1st Premieres At Rivoli in March

"The Affairs of Susan," first Hal Wallis production for Paramount, will have its world premiere at the Rivoli, here, in March, it was announced yesterday by Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution. The film has been booked for an indefinite run; its premiere will be followed with openings in other key cities. A large national advertising campaign in newspapers and trade publications will coincide with the national release date, May 25. Wallis's second, "Love Letters," is also finished.

Minneapolis First in RKO Depinet Drive

RKO's Minneapolis branch, headed by C. J. Dressell, was the winner in the first week of the company's "Ned Depinet Drive," which started Jan. 19 and which will run to May 10, it was announced here yesterday by Robert Mochrie, general sales manager. Billings for the first week were the second highest in RKO's history.

Following Minneapolis was the Detroit branch, headed by M. E. Cohen; Seattle, E. A. Lamb; Cleveland, A. Kolitz; Portland, M. E. Cory, and Sioux Falls, S. W. Fitch, in that order. In Canada, Montreal was first, and St. John's was second, with H. F. Taylor and H. H. McArthur running those branches, respectively.

Dewey Asks $325,000 For State Censors

ALBANY, Jan. 31.—In his budget message to the New York State Legislature, asking for $369,500,000, Gov. Dewey today included a request for $325,000 for the operation of the motion picture division, Department of Education of the State of New York, for 1945-46.

Listed in his estimated budget as a "motion picture tax," the money asked, the same as last fiscal year, is eventually financed by assessments against film distributors.

Censor Board Warns Penna. Theatres

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 31.—Mrs. Edna R. Carroll, chairman of the Pennsylvania board of censors, has notified all theatres in this state to make certain that any film to be exhibited is first approved by the board. The action is the result of the board's discovery that several out-of-state distributors, servicing Pennsylvania accounts, have been booking films into houses without attending to censor procedure.

House Votes Aaainst Ban on Closed Shops

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The House today voted 178-142 against a national service act amendment whereby a work-or-war assignee to a closed shop would not be permitted to go there without joining a union. It further stipulated that the pending legislation should not interfere with existing wage, hour or collective bargaining laws. A rollcall vote on the amendment is likely tomorrow.

Robb in New NBC Post

Arch Robb, formerly assistant to Clarence E. Menser, NBC vice-president in charge of programs, has been promoted to night program manager in charge of company operations in New York.

Show 'Roughly' Feb. 19

Warners' "Roughly Speaking" will be nationally trade shown on Monday, Feb. 19.

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RED CROSS WAR FUND MARCH 15-21

NOW IN TWO INSPIRING REELS FROM WARNERS

Pledge to Bataan

IN TECHNICOLOR

Ready this very minute
--- and timely as today's communiqués!

JACK L. WARNER, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Produced by GORDON HOLLINGSHEAD • Directed and Photographed by DAVID GRIFFIN

See Delay on Allocation of '45 Raw Stock

(Continued from page 1)

as to enable every person affected to figure out quickly just where he stands at any time with respect to raw stock supply. Heretofore, the companies have operated on the basis of a percentage applied against 1941 consumption, but applications for exceptions have been numerous and, since the raw stock supply was not too critical, most of them were possible of allowance. Under the proposed policy, it is planned practically to eliminate the granting of exceptions, because there will be little or no extra film for distribution in that manner.

6 to 9 Months

Contrary to the belief that the raw stock shortage will be remedied by Spring, which appears to prevail in some sections of the industry, a WPB spokesman said the present critical situation may prevail for six to nine months despite efforts being made to increase domestic production. Although studies are being made of the possibility of constructing new facilities, such operations would require considerable time and will be undertaken only if it becomes evident that the currently heavy requirements will be maintained over a long period.

As an immediate step, the WPB is assisting the manufacturers to secure the additional labor which will permit maximum use of existing facilities. To this end, film production has been classified by the War Manpower Commission as a critical, rather than essential, activity and the manufacturers now are getting referrals from the United States Employment Service. It was admitted, however, that only a small increase in output can be expected from this expedient, and studies are being made of other possible methods of expanding production.

X-Ray Need

The sole reason for the cut in allocations which has been imposed upon the industry is the need for types of raw stock other than 35mm for X-ray and other special films which carries the highest priority and must be filled. To meet this demand, it was explained, 35mm facilities have been diverted, with the result that current quarter production will be more than 25,000,000 and may reach 50,000,000 feet less than in the final quarter last year.

Exports, while substantial, do not bulk too largely in the picture, the WPB spokesman said. While Russia is to get 30,000,000 feet this quarter, the total export will run only about 68,000,000 feet. Russia, it was explained, has been given a commitment of approximately 55,000,000 feet a year, or about one-third of what originally was sought, and will get possibly 12,000,000 feet in the second quarter.

While Russia needs the raw stock badly, some of it will come back to this country in the form of training films which the Soviet is producing and dubbing in English, and which will be highly valuable to our own military authorities.

Little advantage to the industry is anticipated from plants in France and Belgium which fell into our hands when the Germans retreated. While the French plant, when it gets into operation, will produce aero and X-ray film which will be acquired by the military authorities, most of the rest of its production will be used by the French industry. The plant at Antwerp is still in the zone of military operations.

Review

"Thunderhead, Son of Flicka"

(20th Century-Fox)

THE beauty and simplicity of "My Friend Flicka" are recaptured in a sequel that has even greater dramatic punch. It achieves, perhaps, less human significance than the original—but more equestrian significance. The exhibitor will find here a treat for the kiddies and, indeed, for anyone who can put himself in the place of a horse. This should include nearly everyone because Thunderhead, whose theme song might be "Don't Fence Me In," is an animal we all can take to our hearts.

Roddy McDowall, still growing on that great Utah ranch which photographs so wonderfully in color, is still the son of Preston Foster and Rita Johnson, who face bankruptcy when a wild albino stallion keeps charging from the hills and eloping with most of their mares. Thunderhead, grandsired by the albino, must decide whether to settle down and recoup the family fortune on the racetracks or leap the corral and strike out for himself. He tries cooperation but, changing his mind while ahead by a length at the fair, dumps Roddy into the paddock and bolts for freedom. As recompense, though, he finds the albino, kicks him thrillingly to death and brings home the mares —before insisting on being turned loose for good.

The script, by Dwight Cummings and Dorothy Yost, from Mary O'Hara's novel, sets up an acting field-day for the big handsome white horse but rather hamstrings the family with too much undistinguished talk about the obvious. Coming off better in support are James Bell as a hired hand, little Diana Hale as his kibitzing daughter and Ralph Sanford as a neighbor who owns thoroughbreds. Robert Bassler's production, in collaboration with the lavish creator of all outdoors, is breathtaking from start to finish. Louis King has directed with skilled regard for both man and beast.

Running time, 78 minutes. "G."* Release in March.

TOM LOY.

*"G" denotes general classification.

WPB Cancels '44 Stock Orders

(Continued from page 1)

them, if they need 35mm film in the current quarter.

The Board also requested information concerning the quantity of raw stock used by each company this month, explained as desired to enable WPB "to obtain more accurate information concerning past usage and to balance current demand against supply more exactly." The companies have been operating under letter authorizations permitting consumption at the last-quarter rate pending the setting of specific allocations.

It was said about 300 authorizations, bearing numbers 12404 and lower, have been cancelled. Laboratories and other service organizations have been informed of the cancellations and instructed not to honor authorizations bearing numbers within that range.

Senate Not to Act on Raw Stock Shortage

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—No complaint of a pending shortage of photographic film has been received by the Senate War Investigating Committee, it was said today by Rudolph Halley, committee counsel, when asked whether his group would go into the raw stock situation. Halley said the committee has learned of the shortage from the press but that the matter had not been brought to its attention formally, and no acion would be taken unless some complaint was filed.

Tennessee Officials Hit 'Brownout'

(Continued from page 1)

ment of Public Safety of Memphis declared that "It is ridiculous to think that a 60-watt bulb will provide sufficient lighting for a theatre."

Memphis fire and police officials planned a complete survey of the effect of the dimout. "The striking of matches in and near theatre entrances and other public places would certainly create a dangerous fire hazard," these officials contend. Attention is also being called to the fact that only about 12 per cent of the current in the TVA area is manufactured by coal, and the saving by the "dimout," would be very small.

Trailers Explaining 'Brownout' Rules

CHICAGO, Jan. 31.—Trailer firms here report a heavy business on "brownout" trailers to explain the new outdoor lighting regulations to patrons. In many cases, according to both National Screen and Filmack Trailer spokesmen here, exhibitors are taking advantage of the trailer to promote coming films.

In all Balaban and Katz theatres, letter channels in sign panels have been painted white to reflect the gleam of street lights; lobby draperies have been removed to release interior illumination.

Legion Classifies 6 New Productions

The National Legion of Decency has classified the following new films: Class A-1: "Her Lucky Night" and "Here Come the Co-eds," Universal; Class A-2, "Hangover Square," 20th Century-Fox; "Objective Burma," Warners, and "Pan-Americana," RKO.

Columbia's "Eadie Was a Lady" was placed in the 'B' classification.

Rathvon Sets Meets On Red Cross Week

(Continued from page 1)

Fred Schwartz and Samuel Rinzler, New York area co-chairmen, with Harry Brandt, exhibitor chairman; Charles Regan, distributor chairman, and Rathvon, among the speakers. Sales and branch managers, salesmen and local exhibitors will attend.

Northeastern district meetings, with Ben Kalmenson and Major L. E. Thompson presiding, are scheduled for Boston, Feb. 23; New Haven, Feb. 24, Albany, Feb. 25; and Buffalo, Feb. 26. Eastern district meetings with Rathvon and William Scully, Washington, Feb. 23; Philadelphia, Feb. 24; Pittsburgh, Feb. 25 and Cleveland, Feb. 26. Eastern Central district, with Abe Montague and Si Fabian, Detroit, Feb. 23; Cincinnati, Feb. 24 and Indianapolis, Feb. 25. Southeastern district, with H. M. Richey and Henry Reeves, Charlotte, Feb. 23; Atlanta, Feb. 24; and New Orleans, Feb. 25.

Other Dates

Also: Southwestern district, with R. H. O'Donnell and Tom Connors, Memphis, Feb. 23; Oklahoma City, Feb. 24 and Dallas, Feb. 25. Midwestern district, with Robert Mochrie and M. A. Lightman, Chicago, Feb. 23; Minneapolis, Feb. 24 and Milwaukee, Feb. 25. Prairie district, with Francis Harmon, Carl Lesserman and Martin Smith, St. Louis, Feb. 23; Kansas City, Feb. 24; Des Moines, Feb. 25 and Omaha, Feb. 26. Rocky Mountain district, with Rick Ricketson and Herman Wobber, Salt Lake City, Feb. 23 and Denver, Feb. 24. West Coast district with Ned Depinet and Charles Skouras, Los Angeles, Feb. 23; San Francisco, Feb. 24; Portland, Feb. 25 and Seattle, Feb. 26.

Michel, Thompson in Red Cross Posts

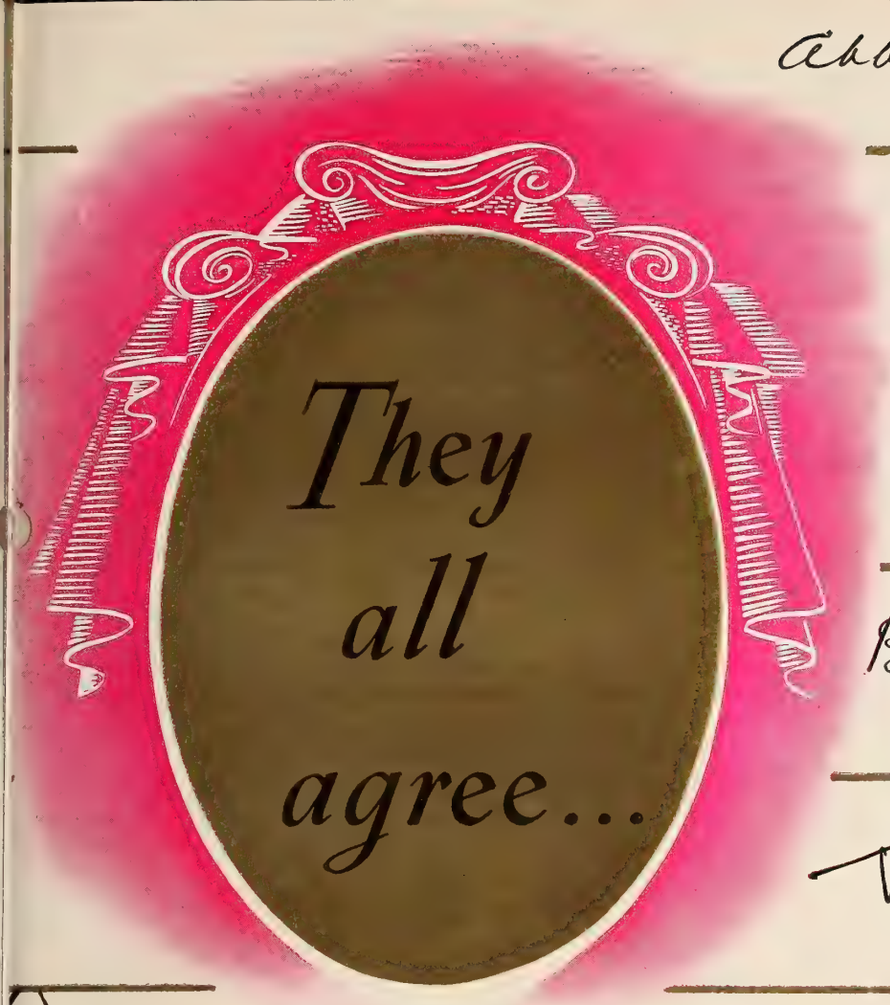
W. C. Michel, of 20th Century-Fox, and Major Leslie E. Thompson, RKO, have been named New York chairmen of the film producers' and studios' divisions, respectively, for the 1945 Red Cross War Fund, it was reported here yesterday by Robert K. Christenberry, president of the Broadway Association and chairman of one of the fund raising sections of the Red Cross drive.

Others named as divisional chairmen were: Howard Barnes, critics; Howard Lindsay, dramatists; John A. Sullivan, ticket agencies; Bretaigne Windust, stage directors, and David Werblin, theatrical agencies.

Shotwell Seeks More Forums on Pictures

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 31.—Participating in an open forum discussion at the Westwood Theatre here last night following the Hollywood Writers Mobilization's screening of "Tomorrow the World," first premiere staged for the purpose of stimulating discussion of postwar social problems, Dr. James T. Shotwell, State Department consultant here to advise on the production of OWI films, said that in his opinion this type of public discussion should be instituted in theatres throughout the country.

They all agree...



Abbott & Costello Milton Berle

Bradshaw Crandell Jessica Dragonette

Irene Dunne James Montgomery Flagg

Benny Goodman Oscar Hammerstein

Moss Hart Philip Hayworth

Ed Hussey Al Jolson Dorothy Kilgallen Fritz Kreisler

Lt. Comdr. Benny Leonard USMS Guy Lombardo Helen Menken

Grace Moore Arthur Murray Rhine Patterson

BELIEVE IT or NOT Ripley Edward G Robinson Sigmund Romberg Gregory Ratoff

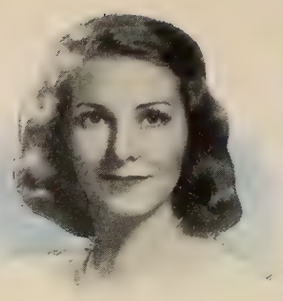
Lee Shubert Frank Sinatra Kate Smith Sigmund Spaeth

Wilbur Clark Conrad Thomas Deemmayfer Vera Zorina

ABBOTT & COSTELLO
"thrillingly different"

MILTON BERLE
"spectacular"

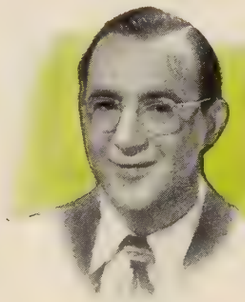
BRADSHAW CRANDELL
"a world in itself"



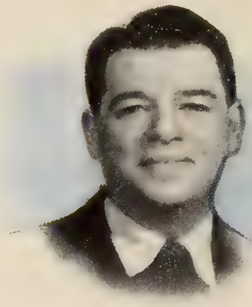
JESSICA DRAGONETTE
"memorable"

IRENE DUNNE
"thrilling entertainme

JAMES MONTGOMERY FLAGG
"glorious"



BENNY GOODMAN
"glorious"



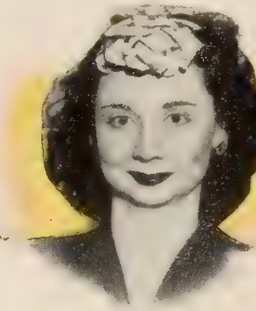
OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN, 2nd
"music skilfully interwoven with story"

MOSS HART
"memorable picture"

RITA HAYWORTH
"thrillingly different

TED HUSING
"dramatic . . . memorable"

AL JOLSON
"different"



DOROTHY KILGALLEN
"eloquent"

FRITZ KREISLER
"a new standard"

LT. COMDR. BENNY LEONARD
"dramatic, exciting"

GUY LOMBARDO
"different"

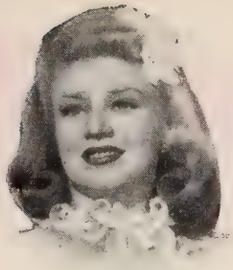
HELEN MENKEN
"dramatic achievement"

ARTHUR MURRAY
"truly memorable"

RUSSELL PATTERSON
"exciting"

BOB RIPLEY
"a new standard"

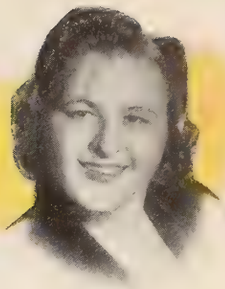
WARD G. ROBINSON
"glorious entertainment"



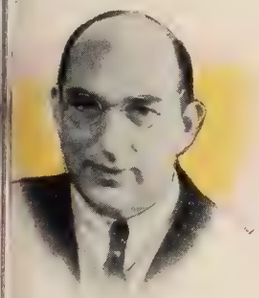
GINGER ROGERS
"thrillingly different"

LEE SHUBERT
"glamorous"

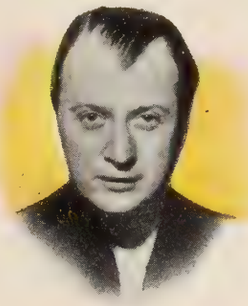
FRANK SINATRA
"glorious"



KATE SMITH
"thrilling"



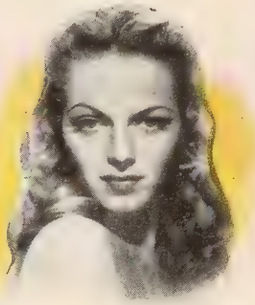
SIGMUND SPAETH
"memorable picture"



JOHANNES STEEL
"exciting, alive"

LEOPOLD STOKOWSKI
"glorious music"

DEEMS TAYLOR
"truly memorable"



VERA ZORINA
"a great joy"

COLUMBIA PICTURES
PRESENTS

A Sidney Buchman Production

A Song to Remember

Starring

Paul MUNI & *Merle* OBERON

WITH CORNEL WILDE

NINA FOCH • GEORGE COULOURIS

Screen Play by Sidney Buchman

Directed by CHARLES VIDOR

IN TECHNICOLOR

SENSATIONAL BUSINESS

in *all* pre-release engagements

NEW YORK..*Radio City Music Hall* · SAN FRANCISCO..*Orpheum*
NEW ORLEANS..*Orpheum* · BOSTON..*Loew's State & Orpheum*
CINCINNATI..*RKO Capitol* · OAKLAND..*Roxie* · ST. LOUIS..
***Loew's State*... *and* HELD OVER EVERYWHERE!**

To the Exhibitors of America who have seen "A Song To Remember" in its opening engagements... our deep appreciation for their enthusiastic expressions of gratitude to Columbia for making this great picture at this time in the industry's history.

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

COLUMBIA PICTURES

'No Time for WAC And Allied to Quarrel,' Fabian

(Continued from page 1)

paign, Seventh War Loan drive, and other vital activities, I would say the resolution was too irresponsible and contrary to fact to merit a reply. However, in the hope of clearing away whatever misunderstandings exist, I must ask my friend Martin Smith and the others who voted for the resolution, to go a step further and investigate the record.

"There are no 'inside' secrets. There are no 'inner circles.' I suggest that National Allied note the membership of our standing committees, and check the committee memberships in each War Bond drive, in each Red Cross Drive, and all other WAC activities. If the men and committees heading these activities do not represent the industry thoroughly—all branches of the industry, including independent exhibitors—and do not represent all sections of the country, then I know neither my industry nor my geography. Allied officials, including Smith, have been asked to serve many times. Many of them did. Allied membership ranks high in the hard-working ranks of WAC.

Lauds Independents

"I agree with one thing reported as appearing in that resolution. Independent exhibitors have done a swell job; they are the backbone of our effort. And WAC has done everything in its power to recognize that fact. Just check the records for names of Allied officers and members. You'll find so many, you'll wonder what all the shooting is about.

"There is a great deal more work to be done before the war is won. Volunteers will be needed. We invite the resolution-adopters to join up. It's their war, too. The war is not the property of the War Activities Committee."

Universal's Mantzke To Join Monogram

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 31. — Frank Mantzke, Universal branch manager here for seven years, has resigned, effective today, to become Monogram district manager of the West Coast, at Los Angeles. Bill Parker, with Universal in Los Angeles for more than three years, will succeed Mantzke here.

Local industry members honored Mantzke at a farewell party held in the Hotel Schroeder here this week.

Knode in NBC Post; Bragdon to Join RCA

Capt. Tom Knode (Ret.), formerly manager of the NBC press department in Washington, has been appointed assistant manager of the NBC press department in New York.

E. L. Bragdon, former trade news editor for NBC, will join the RCA department of information, headed by Orrin E. Dunlap, Jr., today. Alan Kalmus has replaced Bragdon as NBC trade news editor.

15 Have Over Average in Grosses in 16 Cities

(Continued from page 1)

and "The Woman in the Window." Cities reporting were: Boston, Kansas City, Providence, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Indianapolis, Baltimore, St. Louis, Buffalo, Chicago, Philadelphia, Denver, Toronto, Cincinnati, Omaha and Cleveland.

Reports from nine theatres in seven cities give "Meet Me in St. Louis" a big $40,300 above average. It was an outstanding $13,500 above in Kansas City; terrific on a reduced six-day week, due to the fuel shortage, in Cleveland, where it led with $30,000, against a house average for seven days of $19,000; and was big in Kansas City, Providence, Indianapolis and Baltimore. It was still above the house average in a sixth week in Philadelphia and just below house averages on fourth weeks in three Los Angeles theatres.

"Keys of the Kingdom" was $21,100 over average in five theatres in four cities, for another outstanding record. Biggest business was done in Chicago with an excellent $8,000 above. It was $4,500 above in Philadelphia; did double average business in Denver on a moveover and registered well in two theatres in Cincinnati.

"Here Come the Waves" was $15,500 better than average in four theatres in four cities. Best business was done in St. Louis as part of a double bill with $9,300 above being registered. Good business was chalked up in Cincinnati and Omaha, and the film went just above average in Boston on a dual.

"To Have and Have Not," which led in last week's reports, was $30,149 above in reports from eight theatres in five cities, second to "Meet Me in St. Louis" in amount of over average grosses reported. It was an outstanding $17,850 above in two Denver theatres; a big $7,500 above in a second week in Philadelphia and an equally big $7,000 above in a second week in Cincinnati. It was slightly below average in three theatres in Los Angeles in second weeks.

"The Woman in the Window" rolled up $12,300 above in reports from four theatres in three cities on duals, and in three of the four theatres, on second weeks. Best business was $6,500 above on a second week in Kansas City. Good second weeks were recorded at two Los Angeles houses and business was satisfactory in Omaha on a first week.

Ten other films drew better than average business in the 16 cities where the films are playing in at least three theatres. Listed in order of amount grossed above average they are: "A Song to Remember," "The House of Frankenstein," "Suspect," "Together Again," "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier," "Winged Victory," "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "Can't Help Singing," "And Now Tomorrow" and "Hollywood Canteen."

"A Song to Remember" was $10,600 better than average in reports from four theatres in Boston, St. Louis and Cincinnati, with best business done in Boston. "The House of Frankenstein," with stage show in Boston, as a dual in Indianapolis, and in a sixth week as a dual in Los Angeles, was $6,400 above average. "Suspect" was $6,305 above in reports from Buffalo, Denver and Toronto, as a dual in the first two cities. "Together Again" was $4,900 above in reports from Providence, St. Louis and Chicago, above average for a second week in Chicago but below on a dual for a second week in Providence with good business being done in St. Louis on a dual.

"Sunday Dinner for a Soldier," teamed with "The Fighting Lady," was $8,000 above in reports from five theatres in three cities. Best business was done in three Kansas City theatres; good business was recorded in Pittsburgh with the film dipping below average for a second week in Baltimore. "Winged Victory" was $7,400 above in reports from five theatres in five cities, three of which were second weeks.

Salamanca Theatres Ask New Clearance

Phoenix Amusement Co., operating the Seneca and Andrews theatres, Salamanca, N. Y., has filed a clearance complaint in the Buffalo tribunal against the five consenting companies, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday. Complainant charges that the distributors have granted the Havens and State theatres, Olean, clearances which are unreasonable, and asks that they be eliminated or adjusted.

A consent award has been entered in the Philadelphia tribunal in the clearance complaint filed by William Goldman Theatres, Philadelphia, against Paramount, RKO and 20th Century-Fox. Harper M. Tobin, arbitrator, ruled that the maximum clearance which may be granted in licenses entered into by the distributors to the first-run Aldine, Boyd, Capital, Earle, Fox, Mastbaum, Stanley and Stanton, over the Keith and Karlton, operated by Goldman, shall be cut to seven days from 14.

NLRB Opens Probe Of SAG-SPU Fight

(Continued from page 1)

result in the picketing of studios or walkouts by members of one or both of the groups appear to have lessened, according to informed quarters.

Both unions have set tomorrow as a deadline for players to declare their affiliation; both have mentioned 'economic strength' as a measure to be resorted to, if the jurisdictional issue is not clarified in a reasonable length of time. SAG has threatened that its members, including stars, would not work for producers using SPU members for other than extra work.

An SPU spokesman said the major studio labor committee had given assurance this afternoon that it would meet tomorrow on the question of granting an "interim agreement" sought by SPU to govern extra player employment during the period of negotiation for a contract. On this understanding, according to the spokesman, SPU agreed to postpone 24 hours the contemplated picketing of studios, if any, where SAG members were hired to perform work over which SPU claims jurisdiction.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Jan. 31

ANDREA KING has been selected for the top feminine role in "Shadow of a Woman," which William Jacobs will produce for Warners. Helmut Dantine and Craig Stevens are also set for important parts in the drama based on Virginia Perdue's "He Fell Down Dead." Joseph Santley will direct as his first assignment under his new contract. . . . Hal Wallis has purchased "The Crying Sisters" and plans to star Ann Richards in the film, which Byron Haskin will direct.

•

It has finally been agreed by David O. Selznick, Sol Siegel and George Abbott that Shirley Temple will do the starring role in F. Hugh Herbert's "Kiss and Tell," which Columbia will release. . . . John Loder has been assigned the male lead in RKO's jungle drama, "The Most Dangerous Game." . . . Ben Carter and Mantan Moreland will be reunited as a comedy team in M-G-M's "The Harvey Girls."

•

Phil Silvers, Vivian Blaine, Cappy Downs and Yvonne Vautrot have had their 20th Century-Fox contracts extended. . . . Allan Curtis and Lois Collier are set for romantic leads in "The Naughty Nineties," forthcoming Abbott and Costello film for Universal.

Army-Navy 'E' to Anchor Optical

Rear Admiral H. L. Brinser, USN, inspector of Naval material, here, presented the Army-Navy 'E' award to the Anchor Optical Corp., yesterday, in the Hotel New Yorker. Francis Carter Wood, Jr., president of Anchor, accepted the award. Wood is also executive vice-president of Newsreel Theatres, Inc.

Col. A. G. Rudd, chief of the personal affairs branch of the Second Service Army Command and vice-president of Newsreel Theatres (on leave of absence) presented 'E' emblems to Anchor employees. Also present were Lt. W. French Githens, USNR, president of Newsreel Theatres (on leave of absence); Harold E. Wondsel, president of Sound Masters, and Dr. Francis Carter Wood, director of Anchor.

Confirm Masters' Odeon Resignation

(Continued from page 1)

Western sales manager before joining Odeon three years ago. One report was that Masters may replace David Coplan, former U. A. Canadian district manager, who recently was named U. A. managing director in Britain.

Indications are, as reported earlier, Masters may be replaced in Odeon by a representative of J. Arthur Rank of London, who recently acquired a half interest in the circuit.

Masters, who has resigned also as president of Empire Universal Films, will leave soon with his wife for the U. S. for a much-desired rest.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Jan. 6	YOUTH ON TRIAL Cora Sue Collins David Reed Eric Sinclair D—59 mins. (6041)	(Ninth Block) THE THIN MAN GOES HOME William Powell Myrna Loy C—100 mins. (513) (Rev. 11/24/44)	ARMY WIVES Elyse Knox Rick Vallin D—67 mins. (414) (Rev.12/5/44)	(Special Reissue) THE SIGN OF THE CROSS Fredric March Claudette Colbert D—118 mins. (4432) (Rev. 8/23/44)			(Second Block) EXPERIMENT PERILOUS Hedy Lamarr George Brent D—91 mins. (510) (Rev. 12/6/44)	(Jan. Release) KEYS OF THE KINGDOM Gregory Peck Thomas Mitchell D—137 mins. (514) (Rev. 12/13/44)		NIGHT CLUB GIRL Vivian Austin Edward Norris M—60 mins. (9035) (Rev. 12/8/44)	HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN All-Star Cast M—123 mins. (409) (Rev. 12/5/44)
Jan. 13	EADIE WAS A LADY Ann Miller Joe Besser Hal McIntyre and Orchestra C—67 mins. (6014)	MAIN STREET AFTER DARK Edward Arnold Selena Royle D—57 mins. (514) (Rev. 11/28/44)	ADVENTURES Of KITTY O'DAY Jean Parker D—63 mins. (420) (Rev. 12/8/44)	(Second Block) FRENCHMAN'S CREEK (Color) Joan Fontaine Arturo de Cordova D—113 mins. (4408) (Rev. 9/20/44)		GRISSLY'S MILLIONS Paul Kelly Virginia Grey D—71 mins. (409) (Rev. 1/15/45)	MURDER, MY SWEET Anne Shirley Dick Powell D—95 mins. (508) (Rev. 12/6/44)	THE FIGHTING LADY (Color) (documentary) 61 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/21/44)	MR. EMMANUEL (British) Felix Aylmer Greta Gynt D—92 mins. (Rev. 1/4/45)	SHE GETS HER MAN Joan Davis William Gargan Leon Errol C—74 mins. (Rev. 1/5/45)	
Jan. 20	I LOVE A MYSTERY Jim Bannon Barton Yarborough Nina Foch D—69 mins. (6024)	MUSIC FOR MILLIONS Margaret O'Brien Jose Iturbi M—118 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/13/44)	JADE MASK Sidney Toler D—66 mins. (417)	MINISTRY OF FEAR Ray Milland Marjorie Reynolds D—84 mins. (4410) (Rev. 10/18/44)		THE BIG SHOW-OFF Arthur Lake Dale Evans C—70 mins. (410) (Rev.1/16/45)	GIRL RUSH C—65 mins (506) (Rev. 10/25/44)	GREAT GUY (Comedy) James Cagney Dennis Morgan Jeanne Cagney C—91 mins. (516) (Rev. 1/3/45)		UNDER WESTERN SKIES Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. Leo Carrillo O—57 mins. (9039) (Rev. 1/3/45)	TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT Humphrey Bogart Lauren Bacall D—100 mins. (410) (Rev. 10/11/44)
Jan. 27	SAGEBRUSH HEROES Charles Starrett O—54 mins. (6204)	BLONDE FEVER Philip Dorn Mary Astor C—69 mins. (516) (Rev. 11/28/44)	THEY SHALL HAVE FAITH Gale Storm C. Aubrey Smith D—83 mins. (Rev. 12/13/44)	THE MAN IN HALF-MOON STREET Nils Asther Helen Walker D—92 mins. (4407) (Rev. 10/17/44)	HIS BROTHER'S GHOST O—58 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) MARKED FOR MURDER O—56 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) KID SISTER Judy Clark D		THE TOPEKA TERROR Allan Lane Linda Stirling D—55 mins. (464) (Rev. 1/25/45)	NEVADA O—62 mins. (509) (Rev. 12/11/44) THE FALCON IN HOLLYWOOD D—67 mins. (507) (Rev. 12/5/44)	THE WAY AHEAD (British) David Niven Raymond Huntley D—115 mins. (511)		THE SUSPECT Charles Laughton Ella Raines Dean Harens D—85 mins. (9010) (Rev. 12/22/44)	
Feb. 3	SING ME A SONG OF TEXAS Rosemary Lane Hal McIntyre Orch. M—66 mins. (6221)	BETWEEN TWO WOMEN Van Johnson Lionel Barrymore D—82 mins. (518) (Rev. 12/21/44)	CISCO KID RETURNS Duncan Renaldo O—64 mins.	AND NOW TOMORROW Loretta Young Alan Ladd D—85 mins. (4406) (Rev. 10/17/44)			(Special) THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE (Goldwyn) (Color) Bob Hope Virginia Mayo C—94 mins. (551) (Rev. 10/11/44)			HERE COME THE CO-EDS Abbott and Costello Phil Spitalny and Orch. C—88 mins. (9002) (Rev. 1/31/45)	
Feb. 10		NOTHING BUT TROUBLE Laurel and Hardy C—69 mins. (519) (Rev. 12/5/44)	GUN SMOKE Johnny Mack Brown O—57 mins. (455) (Rev. 1/19/45)	ONE BODY TOO MANY Jack Haley Jean Parker C—76 mins. (4409) (Rev. 10/18/44)	SPELL OF AMY NUGENT (English) Derek Farr D		(Special Release) BELLE OF THE YUKON (International) (Color) Randolph Scott Gypsy Rose Lee Dinah Shore C—84 mins. (583) (Rev. 11/29/44)	(Feb. Release) A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN Dorothy McGuire Joan Blondell D—128 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/24/45)		HER LUCKY NIGHT Andrews Sisters Martha O'Driscoll M—63 mins. (Rev. 1/29/45)	
Feb. 17	LEAVE IT TO BLONDIE Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C	THIS MAN'S NAVY Wallace Beery James Gleason D—98 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/4/45)	DILLINGER Elisha Cook Jr. Lawrence Tierney D	(Third Block) HERE COME THE WAVES Bing Crosby Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts M—97 mins. (4411) (Rev. 12/18/44)	FOG ISLAND Lionel Atwill George Zucco D		(Third Block) WHAT A BLONDE Leon Errol Elaine Riley C—71 mins. (Rev. 1/29/45)	HANGOVER SQUARE Laird Cregar Linda Darnell D—77 mins. (516) (Rev. 1/17/45)		THE HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN Boris Karloff John Carradine D—71 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44) THE MUMMY'S CURSE Lon Chaney D—60 mins. (Rev. 12/22/44)	OBJECTIVE, BURMA Errol Flynn D—144 mins. (411) (Rev. 1/26/45)
Feb. 24	THE CRIME DOCTOR'S COURAGE Warner Baxter Hilary Brooke D			DANGEROUS PASSAGE Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4412) (Rev. 12/21/44)	HOLLYWOOD AND VINE James Ellison Wanda McKay D		THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE Dorothy McGuire Robert Young Herbert Marshall D			FRISCO SAL Susanna Foster Turhan Bey M—94 mins.	
Mar. 3	A GUY, A GAL AND A PAL Ross Hunter Lynn Merrick Ted Donaldson D	(Special Release) 30 SECONDS OVER TOKYO Spencer Tracy Van Johnson D—138 mins. (511) (Rev. 11/14/44)	GI HONEY-MOON Gale Storm Peter Cookson D—70 mins.	FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS (Color) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—158 mins. (4413) (Rev. 7/15/43)			HAVING WONDERFUL CRIME George Murphy Pat O'Brien Carole Landis C—70 mins.			SUDAN (Color) Maria Montez Jon Hall Turhan Bey D	
Mar. 10		(Special Release) MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS (Color) Judy Garland Margaret O'Brien M—113 mins. (512) (Rev. 11/1/44)		PRACTICALLY YOURS Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray C—90 mins. (4414) (Rev. 12/15/44)	THE MAN WHO WALKED ALONE Dave O'Brien Kay Aldridge O		PAN-AMERICANA Phillip Terry Audrey Long Robert Benchley D—84 mins.			SEE MY LAWYER Olsen and Johnson Grace McDonald C—69 mins.	
Mar. 17				DOUBLE EXPOSURE Chester Morris Nancy Kelly D—63 mins. (4415) (Rev. 12/21/44)			BETRAYAL FROM THE EAST Lee Tracy Nancy Kelly D—82 mins.			THE HOUSE OF FEAR Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce D	

[Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (M) Musical (O) [illegible] (D) Drama.]

Cowdin, Seidelman, Scully, Prutzman In 'U' Stock Deals

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 31.—Year-end trades of motion picture corporation officers and directors in the securities of their own companies were disclosed by the Securities and Exchange Commission last night in its final 1944 summary of such transactions.

Heaviest movement reported was in Universal securities, where the sale of 26,500 shares of common and 111,283 warrants for common, in which several directors had interests, was involved in the liquidation of Standard Capital Co. The report also showed the annual distribution of 5,000 warrants to J. Cheever Cowdin, and 3,000 warrants, each, to Charles D. Prutzman, William A. Scully and Joseph H. Seidelman.

3,422 to Brown

Operations of individual 'U' officers and directors included the purchase of 3,422 shares of common and 8,672 warrants by Paul G. Brown, Boca Raton, Fla., officer, giving him a total of 20,022 shares of common and 8,672 warrants, and the purchase and sale of 800 shares of common by Scully, who explained that 800 shares were sold through error, necessitating the purchase of an equal amount; a November report for Scully showed the disposition of 300 warrants by gift, leaving him at the end of the year with 100 shares of common and 14,700 warrants.

A report on Cowdin's transactions showed the purchase direct of 6,787 shares of common and 57,316 warrants, and purchases of 427 shares of stock and 1,084 warrants through the Cheever Corp., and 1,413 shares of stock and 3,578 warrants through Whitehall Securities Co. At the close of the year Cowdin held 11,637 shares and 77,316 warrants direct, 577 shares and 1,084 warrants through the Cheever Corp., and 1,413 shares and 3,578 warrants through Whitehall Securities.

Davie Buys 1,098

A report on Preston Davie, Westbury, N. Y., 'U' director, showed the acquisition of 1,089 and the disposition of 100 shares of stock and the purchase of 2,720 warrants, his year-end holdings consisting of 4,489 shares and the newly acquired warrants.

In Columbia Pictures, Harry Cohn reported disposition by gift of 512 shares of common stock, leaving him with 95,822 shares; he also reported a gift of 400 shares in Dec., 1943, while A. Schneider reported two gifts of 35 and 10 shares, respectively, leaving him with 1,637 shares.

Sale of 700 shares of Consolidated Film Industries part-preferred stock was reported by H. J. Yates, Jr., leaving him with 3,182 shares; he also reported sales in November of 3,900 shares.

Loew's, Inc., reported that it had picked up another three shares of Loew's Theatres common, ending the year with 121,235 shares.

In Monogram common stock, Arthur C. Bromberg, Atlanta, director, was shown to have sold 3,000 shares held through Monogram Southern Exchanges, Inc., leaving him with direct holdings of 1,086 shares and 18,539 shares indirectly, while a November report for W. Ray Johnston showed the purchase of 700 shares direct and the sale of 600 shares held through Monogram Pictures, Inc., leaving him with direct holdings of 20,491 shares.

Paramounts' report showed two gifts, 650 shares of common by Stanton Griffis, leaving him with 4,600 shares held direct and 18,000 shares held through trusts, and 100 shares by Maurice Newton, leaving him with 10,465 shares.

The only transactions in Warner stock were sales of 1,950 shares of common by Albert Warner, leaving him with 219,000 shares.

Reports on the holdings of persons becoming officers or directors of registered corporations showed that Harry M. Durning, New York, held no RKO securities when he became a director of the company on Nov. 14.

Pick M-G-M Beauty Contest Winners

Betty Falk of San Antonio, Texas, yesterday was designated "Miss Anniversary" in MGM's 20th anniversary bathing beauty contest, for which approximately 5,000 entries were received.

Winners were selected at the Hotel Astor yesterday by a board of judges of which Vincent Trotta of National Screen Service; Arthur William Brown, president of the Society of Illustrators; Earl Wilson, *New York Post* columnist; Russell Patterson, illustrator, and George Frazier, associate editor of *Life*, were members. Results were announced by Trotta at a luncheon which followed the judging and at which William Ferguson, MGM exploitation director, presided.

$500 Award

An award of $500 in war bonds went to the winner. Second prize of $300 in war bonds was awarded Betty Lou Bandlow of Gloversville, N. Y., and third prize of a $200 war bond was awarded to Jeannette Jurgens of Fresno, Cal. Runnersup were: Gennella Hall, Seattle; Joan Hawk, Oklahoma City, and Jenella Strenge, Columbia, S. C. The contest was inaugurated last June by Howard Dietz, vice-president and advertising-publicity director, and Ferguson as part of MGM's 20-year anniversary. Elimination contests were held in over 200 cities and towns in conjunction with local campaigns on "Bathing Beauty."

Attending the luncheon in addition to trade press representatives and others cooperating on the contest were: Dewey Bloom, Toronto; Charles Baron, Pittsburgh; Charles Dietz, Detroit, and William Green, Chicago, all MGM field representatives now visiting in New York; also, C. K. Stern, Herb Crooker, William Ornstein and Curly Harris of the MGM home office publicity department.

Harvey Day Leaves Terry Toons' Post

(*Continued from page 1*)

cational. Harvey Day entered the business in 1912 with George Kline in Chicago and was subsequently with Fox and Select.

An Open Letter To Lester Cowan

Dear Lester:

It is with deep regret that we must terminate the exceptional run of your picture "Tomorrow—the World!" at the Globe Theatre after six highly successful weeks. Unfortunately, a prior commitment made by us some time ago prevents us from extending the run of "Tomorrow—the World!" *indefinitely as it warrants!*

As you know, we have been in the exhibition end of this business for *31* years but never in our experience have we ever played a picture that has had the *building power* and *staying quality* of "Tomorrow—the World!". The 'word-of-mouth' plus its timeliness makes your picture *a real contender for top grosses.* Let's look at the Globe record: the third week was bigger than the second; the fourth week was bigger than the third; the fifth week was bigger than the fourth and the *SIXTH WEEK WILL TOP ALL* except the first despite bad weather breaks.

We sincerely feel that you have an unusually great picture in "Tomorrow—the World!". The box-office records of the Globe Theatre have proven that you have a real WINNER in "Tomorrow — the World!".

Please accept our sincere congratulations and best wishes for your continued success.

Harry Brandt
Lou Brandt

MOSTLY he was "in the movies" before the war. He processed film in a laboratory, or worked with sound, animated, or edited . . . in one way or another helped make "pictures" into "productions." That's what he's doing now. The difference is that his peacetime productions entertained or sold, while the productions he's turning out

Unprocessed . . . from all over the world

now are helping to win this war more quickly and completely.

Take the movie technicians of the AAF Combat Film Service, for example . . .

Scanning combat footage

Patiently, painstakingly, they convert a wide variety of unprocessed film from all our Air Force commands into a long list of finished productions (600,000 feet in a year; 111 hours of looking and listening).

There's a weekly film digest for the top command . . . the General Staff, the Air Staff, the AAF departments in Washington . . . there's a steady flow of productions to the entire AAF . . .

Films on performance of equipment (these show plane builders how their planes behave in actual combat), films on strategy and tactics, bombing techniques, films on air evacuation of the wounded, construction of runways, air-sea rescue . . . the list goes on and on. . . . In its entirety, the program constitutes a superbly effective means for

Committee reviews finished film

making available to every unit of the AAF what every other unit has learned about taking the skies away from the Germans and the Japs.

One of a series of advertisements by KODAK testifying to the achievements of the movies at war

Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y.

J. E. BRULATOUR, INC., *Distributors,* Fort Lee, Chicago, Hollywood

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 24 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1945 TEN CENTS

RAW STOCK SET AT 256,000,000 FEET

1st Quarter Cut 5.5%; WPB Limits Prints to 285 Per Feature Film

By SHERWIN KANE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—An allocation of 256,000,000 feet of raw stock was granted to the industry for the first quarter of 1945, the Industry Advisory Committee was informed today at a meeting with Stanley B. Adams, chief of the consumers durable goods division, and Lincoln V. Burrows, chief of the photographic section, of the War Production Board.

Allocation represents a cut of approximately 16,000,000 feet, or about 5.5 per cent, from the amount consumed during the last quarter of 1944. Under the new WPB order, a maximum of 285 prints per feature will be allowed, compared with 300 to 400 prints heretofore made on each feature.

One exception to the order will be permitted. If a distributor can show that a feature has not exhausted its playing time and earning possibilities by the time the 285 prints are no

(Continued on page 7)

British Urge U. S. Raw Stock Saving

Say Situation's Gravity Not Realized in Past

LONDON, Feb. 1.—The gravity of the raw stock shortage has caused a harsh reaction on the part of both British and American distributors here, who maintain that while "meticulous husbandry" of the supply has been exercised in this country, the United States has not realized the urgency of the situation.

The Board of Trade now urges distributors, even more sternly than previously, to conserve stocks by making fewer prints, adding the Government is doing everything in its power to prevent waste by the armed services but may be compelled to institute a further cut on distributors' usage, this despite protests regarding bad prints now supplied to exhibitors. Individual members of the Kinematograph Renters Society say they are "ashamed" of the bad condition of the

(Continued on page 7)

KRS Strikes At Tribunal

LONDON, Feb. 1.—A Kinematograph Renters' Society memorandum to the British Board of Trade concerning its monopoly report will contain a joint American-British distributors' declaration that the proposed industry tribunal which would have power to set up a Government bank for the purpose of financing production would create a film monopoly "infinitely more dangerous" than any set up in the industry itself, it was learned here today.

The report also serves to refute re-

(Continued on page 6)

AAA Budget Group Meet After March 5

Although last Dec. 1 was the beginning of the American Arbitration Association's fiscal year, the budget committee is expected to continue the deferment of its annual meeting until after the March 5 consent decree hearing at which time the Federal District Court here is scheduled to

(Continued on page 6)

Fuel Order Hits Phila.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 1.—Mayor Bernard Samuel today issued a proclamation halting coal deliveries to theatres and other amusement places. The proclamation does not affect night clubs or tap rooms. If the situation continues critical, the ban will be extended to other activities.

Mayor Samuel, in his proclamation, said: "Where a building houses a dwelling as well as a place of amusement, fuel may be delivered provided there is a reduction in the heat supplied in the amusement section of the building."

A survey of film houses showed that

(Continued on page 6)

SPU Picket Lines At Studios Today

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 1.—Screen Players Union executives tonight said they will place a picket line around all major studios tomorrow because the producers, following a long meeting this afternoon, declined to enter into an interim agreement sought by SPU as a means of maintaining the status quo while the jurisdictional dispute with the Screen Actors Guild is in the process of settlement.

A statement issued by the producers said the proposed interim agreement had been submitted to and refused by the Screen Actors Guild. Both unions claim jurisdiction over players performing bits, stunts and singing. The producers had previously applied to the National Labor Relations Board for clarification of the jurisdiction.

Possible consequences of the picketing could be shutdown or partial shutdown of production, depending on whether other workers observe the picket lines.

Para. Has Backlog Of 27 Features

Paramount has a backlog of 27 features completed and, in most cases, 'sneak previewed' from which list remaining 1945 releases will be selected.

"For Whom the Bell Tolls", which has played 900 advanced admission engagements, goes into popular price release this month. Others in the backlog are: "Here Come the Waves", "Practically Yours", "Ministry of Fear", "Bring on the Girls", "A Medal for Benny", "Salty O'Rourke", "Out of This World", "Incendiary Blonde", "The Road to Utopia", "The Unseen", "Two Years Before the Mast", "Murder, He Says", "The Affairs of Susan", "Love Letters", "Kitty", "The Lost Weekend", "The Virginian" and "Miss Susie Slagle's".

Virtually completed are: "Duffy's Tavern", "Good Intentions" and "Too

(Continued on page 6)

Owen Will Rejoin Paramount Monday

Hugh Owen, who recently resigned as general sales manager of Vanguard to rejoin Paramount will assume the newly-created post of New York and Southern division manager for Paramount Monday.

Neil Agnew, Vanguard vice-president, is expected to designate a successor to Owen following his return Monday from Hollywood where he has been conferring with David O. Selznick, head of Vanguard.

Operation of 'Labs' Cut

The critical raw stock shortage is seriously cutting operation of most, if not all of the seven major and twelve smaller film laboratories here.

Consolidated's Fort Lee processing plant was closed completely yesterday and also for a day previously, due to the lack of raw stock, while other large laboratories are down to a five-day week, with many of the smaller laboratories also functioning limitedly.

The three-day ban on freight shipments which was in effect early this

(Continued on page 7)

Companies' Raw Stock Cuts

Washington, Feb. 1.—Following are the allocations of raw stock by individual companies for the first quarter of 1945, compared with the last quarter of 1944, as announced here today by the War Production Board:

Company	*Current Quarter*	*Last Quarter*
Columbia	28,505,600 ft.	30,253,296 ft.
M-G-M	39,713,280 "	42,147,476 "
Monogram	7,697,920 "	8,170,000 "
Paramount	28,948,480 "	30,722,843 "
PRC	5,181,440 "	5,500,000 "
RKO	25,850,880 "	27,435,119 "
Republic	17,318,400 "	18,380,444 "
20th Century-Fox	29,967,360 "	31,803,298 "
United Artists	16.157,760 "	16,086,803 "
Universal	25.863,680 "	27,448,441 "
Warners	31,792,640 "	33,742,077 "

Reviewed Today

Reviews of "The Man Who Walked Alone" and "The Kid Sister" appear on page 3; "On Approval", page 8.

Personal Mention

LEO J. McCARTHY, PRC's general sales manager, will leave New York Sunday for Hollywood to confer with LEON FROMKESS, president.

•

TONY SUDEKUM, president of Crescent Amusement Co., has been named to the Nashville Chamber of Commerce board of governors; and R. E. BAULCH, another Crescent official, has been named to the chamber's industrial development committee.

•

JACK MATLACK, executive of J. J. Parker Theatres, Portland, Ore., has been named 1944's junior first citizen of that city. He was recently honored at the 14th anniversary luncheon of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

•

MIKE SIMONS, editor of the *Distributor* and *Lo*, M-G-M and Loew publications, respectively, left here yesterday for Boston; he will return Monday.

•

WESLEY RUGGLES, who will produce for J. Arthur Rank in England, arrived here yesterday from Hollywood en route to London.

•

ARTHUR JEFFREY, Eastern publicity director for International Pictures, has returned to New York from Boston and Providence.

•

H. M. (DOC) DOHERTY, head of auditing operations at the Warner exchange here, observed his 25th year with the company yesterday.

•

ROGER FAWCETT, vice president and general manager of Fawcett Publications, has left New York for a business trip to Louisville and Hollywood.

•

EVELYN COLEMAN of Republic's home office publicity department left last night for a month's vacation in Cuba.

•

CHARLES A. KIRBY, Universal's assistant foreign manager, is vacationing in Atlantic City.

•

CHARLES STEINBERG, head of Warners' educational bureau, is in Washington.

•

RAOUL WALSH, Warner director, will arrive in New York tomorrow from the Coast.

•

HENRY BLANKE, Warner producer, will leave New York today for the Coast.

•

MARTIN QUIGLEY arrived in Hollywood from New York yesterday.

•

JOSEPH H. MOSKOWITZ, vice-president and Eastern studio representative of 20th Century-Fox, will arrive in New York from the Coast today.

Fire Destroys Star

POTSDAM, N. Y., Feb. 1.—Fire destroyed the Star Theatre here, with damages estimated at $40,000. The owner is James Papayanakos.

Laboratory Union Pact Meet Feb. 15

Negotiations on a new contract for some 2,000 laboratory technicians and others represented by IATSE Motion Picture Laboratory Technicians Local No. 702 are not expected to get underway before Feb. 15, despite the union's insistence on an earlier starting date, it was learned here yesterday.

The local's representatives here have been demanding both an early starting date and assurance that the negotiations will be continuous once they are started. Contracts between the laboratory technicians and the seven major processing laboratories and the dozen small companies were readjusted to expire at the same time, next March 10.

A spokesman for the committee representing the laboratories said yesterday it will make every effort possible to meet with the union as frequently as possible but cannot commit itself to an earlier start of negotiations or a guarantee that the committee will be able to meet without interruption.

Leader Theatre Trial Now Off to Mar. 12

Suit of the Leader Theatre Corp., operator of the Leader Theatre, Brooklyn, against 20th Century-Fox, and Randforce Amusement Co., will be tried March 12 in New York Supreme Court. Action had been set for Feb. 5 trial, but after conclusions of examinations before trial, attorneys for both sides requested a month's delay to prepare for the trial.

Suit charges alleged illegal transfer on the part of 20th-Fox, of a franchise given the Leader, to another house in the Randforce Circuit, following sale of the Leader to the plaintiff, Leonard Storch. Damages and a return of the franchise are requested.

MGM Publicity Men Still Come and Go

Three M-G-M field promotion representatives and three office managers will arrive in New York Monday for a week's home office visit. They are: William G. Bishop, Los Angeles; Louis W. Orlove, Milwaukee; Norman W. Pyle, Minneapolis. The office managers include: W. Spruce, Dallas; F. Armington, Des Moines; Joseph Markowitz, Los Angeles.

Leaving here over the weekend will be field representatives Charles Dietz, Detroit; Dewey Bloom, Toronto; William Greene, Chicago; Charles Baron, Pittsburgh. Office managers leaving are: Alvin Gross, Minneapolis; Jay Zimmerman, St. Louis; Ben Wolf, Boston.

McDonald Joins Blue

Joseph A. McDonald has resigned as assistant general counsel of National Broadcasting, to become general attorney for American Broadcasting Co. which operates the Blue Network. The change becomes effective Feb. 15; McDonald's successor is to be announced.

Blumenstock Adds 5 to Field Staff

Mort Blumenstock, head of Warners' advertising-publicity in the East, has made five additions to the field public relations staff with a view to augmenting the force for increased campaigns on "Hotel Berlin," "Objective, Burma," "Roughly Speaking," and other releases.

George Fishman, who was publicity head for the former United Chain Theatres, and formerly Eastern representative for Gene Autry, has been assigned to the Philadelphia territory; Edward A. Johnson, long identified in a press and managerial capacity with various branches of amusement, including motion pictures, and before that in the newspaper field, is taking over the Minneapolis territory. Richard Stephens, formerly with Warners on the Coast, in the radio department, will work out of the home office under Bill Brumberg, who has charge of the field staff; Stanton Kramer has joined the Chicago staff, headed by Ted Tod; Allan Kohan is covering the Pacific Northwest, with headquarters in Seattle.

Territorial Theatres Join Red Cross Drive

Theatres in Alaska, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, will participate for the first time in a Red Cross Campaign this year, during 'Red Cross Week', March 15-21. Homer Garvin of Juneau Empire Theatres, is Alaska area exhibitor chairman; Robert O. Schoham of Metro Theatres, San Juan, is chairman for Puetro Rico; Clarence Payne of the Town Hall, St. Thomas, and V. Fredericksen, Christiansted Theatre, St. Croix, will represent the Virgin Islands.

Simon to Aid Red Cross

Ben Simon, manager of Loew's Metropolitan, Brooklyn, will be technical advisor for the Red Cross tableau at the St. George Hotel, Feb. 20. It will be a feature of the opening of the Red Cross War Fund drive in Brooklyn.

Mrs. Rosenberg Rites

Funeral services will be held today for Esther Rosenberg, 65, mother of Frank P. Rosenberg, Columbia director of advertising-publicity, at Park West Memorial Chapel, here. Mrs. Rosenberg died Wednesday at Dresden Nursing home after a long illness. Other survivors include her husband, Ike; three daughters, Ruth B., Mrs. Helen Kott and Lilian Bravin; two sisters, Mrs. Lena Kulick and Mrs. Dora Blake and a brother, Louis Rosenberg.

Goodrich, 80, Dead

LONDON, Feb. 1.—Louis Goodrich, 80, veteran actor, died at his home in Hampshire yesterday. In addition to the many plays he starred in, Goodrich made several pictures and was the author of a novel, "Greta Bridge."

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Showplace of the Nation • Rockefeller Center
"A SONG TO REMEMBER"
PAUL MUNI • MERLE OBERON
Introducing CORNEL WILDE
A Columbia Picture in TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

ANNE BAXTER JOHN HODI
"Sunday Dinner for a Soldier"
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
Plus on Stage—Bill Robinson - Maurice Rocco —Delta Rhythm Boys—Louis Armstrong and His Orchestra
BUY MORE BONDS ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

2nd WEEK • ROXY

EXTRA! AT LAST...REVEALED!
THE UNKNOWN BATTLE
The NEW MARCH OF TIME
A 20th Century-Fox Release

"FIGHTING LADY"
IN TECHNICOLOR
20th CENTURY-FOX RELEASE
VICTORIA THEATRE
BROADWAY & 46th ST.
MIDNIGHT SHOW EVERY NIGHT

STATE
ON SCREEN
'MUSIC FOR MILLIONS'
MARGARET O'BRIEN
JOSE ITURBI
JIMMY DURANTE
JUNE ALLYSON
IN PERSON
ROCHESTER
EXTRA!
AL TRACE

20TH CENTURY-FOX PRESENTS
A. J. Cronin's
"THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM"
Continuous Performances
RIVOLI B'way & 49th St.

BING CROSBY
BETTY HUTTON
SONNY TUFTS
In Person
Woody HERMAN and His Orchestra
ALL-STAR REVUE
"Here Come the Waves"
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett
Raymond Massey
"Woman in the Window"
AN INTERNATIONAL PICTURE
—A RKO RELEASE

Fleming in New Post

George Fleming, for the past three months a member of the Blue Network publicity department in New York, has been made publicity manager of the network's cooperative program department, a new post.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor, Published daily except Saturday, Sunday, and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Theo Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1945 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

Hollywood Costs Lloyds $800,000

Hollywood, Feb. 1.—American production cost Lloyd's of London, underwriters, a record $800,000 during 1945 for production stoppages due to injury or sickness of players and directors.

Payments included $151,000 to David O. Selznick for postponements on "Since You Went Away," $107,000 to Hunt Stromberg for delays on "Guest in the House," $90,000 to Samuel Goldwyn for a hold-up in schedule, $81,000 to Columbia for "The Desert Hawk," and $38,000 to Samuel Bronston for "Jack London."

MCA Employe Trust Fund from Profits

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 1.—Under provisions of a profit-sharing trust plan which Music Corporation of America will put into effect as soon as Treasury Department approval is obtained, a sum equivalent to 15 per cent of the company's payroll will be set aside for future payments to employees who have been with the company six years or longer.

The money will be administered and invested as a trust fund, and it is expected that the major share will be invested in Government securities. Treasury Department approval must be obtained to invest such funds in the company's own stock.

Employees with six years' service will get the benefit of 20 per cent of the fund, those with seven years' service, 40 per cent, and the percentage increases thereafter so that employees with ten years service or longer will receive the benefits of 100 per cent of the fund.

At Age of 55

The benefits are to be paid to employees as they reach age 55. If an employee dies, benefits accruing to him under the plan will be paid to his specified beneficiary, either in one sum or in periodic payments, as the employee designates.

The investment of 15 per cent of its profits is optional on the part of the company, and may be decreased or suspended should the company's profits fail to warrant such an investment.

According to Jules C. Stein, president and chairman of the MCA board, it is hoped that the profit-sharing trust plan will increase the stability of the organization and the security of its employees.

Toronto Clamps Ban On Midnight Shows

TORONTO, Feb. 1.—In a move to control juvenile delinquency, the Board of Police Commissioners here today banned all midnight shows in this city except those prior to Christmas Day and on New Year's Eve.

Jaffe to Handle 'Enemy'

CHICAGO, Feb. 1.—James Jovan, general manager of Globe Film Co., has named the Eddie Jaffe publicity office to handle "Behind the Enemy Lines."

Reviews

"The Man Who Walked Alone"

(PRC)

Hollywood, Feb. 1

THE title of Leon Fromkess' latest production is misleading, connoting as it does a mystery-drama. This is a comedy which never succeeds in being very funny.

The screenplay, by Robert Lee Johnson, is based on a story by Christy Cabanne, who also directed. It is about a rich girl who, on her wedding eve, meets a man she likes better, and decides to jilt her fiance, against the wishes of her family. It takes a torrent of dull dialogue to get this story across.

The cast, headed by David O'Brien, Kay Aldridge and Walter Catlett, is handicapped by the poor quality of the material. Nevertheless, it cannot be said that the acting adds anything to the producion as a whole. With the exception of a little girl named Nancy June Robinson, the actors are as wooden as puppets on a string, and display just about as much spontaneity.

Running time, 73 minutes. "G."* Release date, Feb. 15.

THALIA BELL.

"The Kid Sister"

(PRC)

AN UNPRETENTIOUS little film of modest proportions is "The Kid Sister," with an appeal solely for youthful audiences. The screenplay and original by Fred Myton are extremely meager, permitting little scope for the talents of director Sam Newfield or players Roger Pryor and Judy Clark.

The plot concerns the strivings of Miss Clark, younger sister of Constance Worth, to 'get her man,' despite mother Ruth Robinson's desire to see the elder daughter married off first. Miss Clark is abducted by Frank Jenks, a burglar, and a fair measure of excitement is created in the chase that ensues. Pryor is the prize, and Miss Clark conquers him by sheer vitality.

Sigmund Neufeld, who produced, has assembled, besides Tommy Dugan, a cast consisting of Richard Byron, Minerva Urecal and Peggy Wynne.

Running time, 55 minutes. "G."* Release date, Feb. 6.

CHARLES RYWECK.

**"G" denotes general classification.*

Kanturek Made 20th Central Europe Head

Louis Kanturek has been appointed 20th Century-Fox's Central and Eastern European manager by Ben Miggins, Continental European manager.

Kanturek, who was formerly associated with M-G-M and Columbia in Europe, and at one time maintained his own distribution organization in Prague, will make his headquarters in that city and Paris. His territory is expected to cover Czechoslovakia, Poland, Austria and Hungary.

Realty Assessments Up $80,465,875 Here

New York City's tentative assessed valuations for the 1945-46 have risen to $15,934,065,329; $88,073,225 above final figures for 1944-45, according to William Wirth Mills, president of the city tax commission. The commission estimated that the increase would be cut by $7,607,850 through exemptions, for a final estimated net increase of $80,465,875.

Assessment on the RCA building in Rockefeller Center is up $2,000,000, Madison Square Garden is up $300,000 while the Center Theatre is down $300,000.

Frank Back to Chicago

CHICAGO, Feb. 1.—Jay Frank of the 20th Century-Fox publicity staff will return here Monday after seven months in Kansas City, to head the local exchange's publicity. He replaces Tommy Thompson, who will take over his old post in the St. Louis branch.

Radio Time Sales Are Up 63 Millions

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Time sales of the broadcasting industry hit a new all-time high last year, increasing approximately $60,000,000 over 1943, it was reported today by the Federal Communications Commission.

Preliminary reports received by the Commission showed sales of time by the four major networks aggregating $126,330,491, an increase of 21.2 per cent over 1943.

Reports from 569 standard stations showed that non-network sales increased in even greater percentage, those to national and regional users amounting to $58,665,331, an increase of 25.9 per cent, and those to local and other users aggregating $61,990,623, an increase of 28.3 percent.

Kohlmar, Paramount Producer, Resigns

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 1.—Fred Kohlmar, Paramount producer who joined the studio in 1940, has resigned, effective four weeks after the completion of "The Well Groomed Bride," which started shooting today. The separation was announced as "amicable."

Sam Bischoff Resigns As Col. Producer

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 1.—Producer Sam Bischoff, who recently finished "A Thousand and One Nights" for Columbia, resigned from that studio today, effective after he completes one more script and one treatment.

Coming Events

Today—Press Photographers Association dance and entertainment, Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, New York.

Feb. 5—Paramount regional sales meeting, Hotel Muehlebach, Kansas City.

Feb. 5-7—National Theatres division meeting, Los Angeles.

Feb. 6—Paramount luncheon for exhibitors, Hotel Muehlebach, Kansas City.

Feb. 8—Paramount regional sales meeting, Dallas.

Feb. 12—Paramount regional sales meeting, Chicago.

Feb. 14.—Paramount regional sales meeting, Cleveland.

Feb. 15—Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Association, annual meeting and election, Cleveland.

Feb. 20—Paramount regional sales meeting, New York.

March 8-9 — Paramount regional sales meeting, Atlanta.

March 15—Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences annual awards, Hollywood.

Lift U. S. Ban on Mail to Belgium

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The three-year U. S. ban on business and commercial communication with Belgium was lifted tonight by the Treasury. Postmaster General Frank C. Walker announced that letters not exceeding one ounce in weight will be accepted for mailing to civilians in liberated Belgium tomorrow. Practically all U. S. film companies had branches at Brussels in the pre-war period.

Business as well as personal communications may be sent, but the former must be restricted to the ascertainment of facts and exchange of information, except when they constitute instructions relating to the protection, maintenance and management of property interests in Belgium, or are documents regarding patents, copyrights, or trade-marks.

Senate Passes a New 'Anti-Petrillo' Bill

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The Senate today passed and sent to the House the "anti-Petrillo" bill, introduced by Senator Arthur Vandenburg, Michigan, amending the Communications Act to prohibit interference with the broadcasting of non-commercial cultural or educational programs.

NBC 'Parade' Exhibit

National Broadcasting's annual "Parade of Stars" network promotion campaign will be exhibited at a luncheon at the Hotel Waldorf Astoria, here, next Thursday according to an announcement here by Charles P. Hammond, NBC director of advertising and promotion. Trailers in over 800 theatres were used for the first time in conjunction with the "Parade of Stars," and the results of the showings are to be discussed at the luncheon-meetnig.

LISTEN TO 'EM CHEER

"MELODRAMA AT ITS BEST!"

"This is the kind of a picture a showman can endorse to friends as well as to his customers. It is murder-mytery-melodrama at its best—brisk, brittle and brighter than most dollars—with Dick Powell, Anne Shirley, Claire Trevor, Otto Kruger and other skilled players out-doing themselves in a production that is bigger and better than any or all of them."

— MOTION PICTURE DAILY

"OF SMASH CALIBRE!"

"Joins the select circle of big box-office crime pictures as one of the best of them all . . . A brilliantly done, fast action, suspenseful murder mystery with a plot well off the beaten path, blessed with crisp, flashing humor . . . A socko of smash calibre."

— HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"CRAMMED WITH THRILLS!"

"Exciting moments crammed with thrills and chills . . . A swift-moving melodrama which is effective in plot and presentation."

— MOTION PICTURE HERALD

"CARRIES A PUNCH!"

"Strong melodramatic entertainment effectively produced . . . The film carries a punch and the story has been worked out interestingly . . . Dick Powell delivers his best performance as the dick."

— FILM DAILY

"A STALWART CONTENDER!"

"Here's another whodunit in the grand and modern manner and one which can safely be catalogued as a stalwart contender in any field. Exciting, suspenseful and dramatic, the picture abounds in the spine-tingling situations upon which devotees of mysteries dote."

— BOX OFFICE

"WILL DELIGHT ALL!"

"A vital, passionately violent detective story of rapid action and swift pace that will delight all . . . Good for any situation. . . . Has an electric quality of tension and murderous directness . . . The word-of-mouth will run away with your advertising."

— SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIEW

"REMEMBER 'MALTESE FALCON'?"

"Remember 'The Maltese Falcon?'. Well, here is another gripping and suspenseful mystery thriller, masterfully directed, well played . . . A directorial triumph in suspense . . . Interest held and often heightened to the point of breathless absorption."

— FILM BULLETIN

RED CROSS WAR FUND WEEK MARCH 15-21

FOR The NEW

Dick POWELL

rough tough terrific!

Claire TREVOR • Anne SHIRLEY

Murder, My Sweet

(Tradeshown and reviewed as "Farewell My Lovely")

with

OTTO KRUGER • MIKE MAZURKI • MILES MANDER

DOUGLAS WALTON • DON DOUGLAS

Produced by Adrian Scott • Directed by Edward Dmytryk

Screen Play by John Paxton

RKO RADIO PICTURES

FP-C Life Passes To Canada Heroes

Toronto, Feb. 1.—Ernest (Smokey) Smith, only Canadian enlisted man to win the Victoria Cross in this war, today at Vancouver received from J. J. Fitzgibbons, Famous Players-Canadian president, a life pass to all theatres in that circuit. Similar privilege will be extended other winners of the cross as a tribute in connection with the company's 25th anniversary.

The huge cake which featured the recent anniversary dinner here has been given to convalescent soldiers at Christie Military Hospital.

Separate Republic Unit for Borzage

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 1.—H. J. Yates announced here today that Frank Borzage has been given a long term producer-director contract under which Republic will establish a separate Borzage unit, with the latter in complete charge regarding stories, stars and other factors in a series of films budgeted at $1,500,000 each.

Yates said the Borzage arrangement is the first of several to be announced in connection with Republic's 10th anniversary. Borzage, now directing "The Spanish Main" at RKO, will go to New York following its completion for conferences with Yates.

Richardson HasAstor Franchise, Quits 'U'

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 1.—Miller Richardson has resigned as branch manager of Universal exchange, here, and has purchased the Astor Pictures franchise for Atlanta, from Robert E. Savini.

Richardson was with Consolidated, Grand National and United Artists prior to his Universal connection.

'Pilot' to Benefit AAF

MACON, Ga., Feb. 1.—Entire proceeds of the $10 admission world premiere of Warners' "God Is My Co-Pilot," to be held Feb. 21 at the Grand Theatre, here, will go to the Army Air Forces Aid Society.

Espy Gets Coast Site

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 1.—Majestic Theatre Corp., owned by Reeves Espy and Saul Silverman, has acquired frontage at Sunset Blvd. and Via de La Paz, Santa Monica, for a 1,000-seat theatre.

Watch
U. A. releases
bearing
G.C.F.
Presents

Fuel Order Hits Phila.

(*Continued from page* 1)

some heat with oil and some have coal on hand. If the situation continues critical, however, the theatres may close one day a week or eliminate matinees.

The possibility that theatres may be forced to close was viewed with alarm by Mrs. Edna R. Carroll, chairman of the state board of censors, who said the public is in need of entertainment as a means of escape from the dark realism of the war. She cited the experience in London during the blitzkreig, when the lack of films precipitated a national attack of nerves.

Utica, Troy, Watervliet Theatres Now Closed

ALBANY, Feb. 1.—The shutdown of film houses has spread from Albany to Utica, Troy and Watervliet. Operators hope to reopen in Troy by Saturday, but Albany may be closed 10 days or more.

Warner and Fabian circuits were hurt most by the closing in Albany, the former having four theatres and the latter three. Warner and Kalett are the chief operators in Utica. Warners have four houses in Troy, while Fabian runs one.

Boston Exhibitors Expect a Drop

BOSTON, Feb. 1.—Local theatres, discussing the order of ODT requiring a virtual shut-down on marquee lighting, are frank in the belief that business will be injured and that safety measures long preached for by authorities will go by the boards.

Boston's so-called "White Way" is unusually dark because Washington Street, where most downtown theatres are located, is completely dark.

AAA Budget Group Meet After Mar. 5

(*Continued from page* 1)

hear arguments by the Department of Justice for a revised decree.

It is not believed that new appropriations will be voted to cover operating expenses of the 31 arbitration tribunals until such time as the decree emerges from its present inconclusive status. However, distributors have been submitting some $25,000 monthly, as usual, without waiting for a new formal appropriation to be voted.

The budget committee consists of three members, one representative each from the appeal board, the AAA and the distributors, who are respectively, George Alger, Wesley Sturges and Gordon Youngman of RKO.

All leases of the 31 arbitration tribunal quarters have been renewed.

Phila. Assessments Drop

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 1.—Assessment values of most of the center-city theatres have dropped. Among first-runs operated by Warners, the 1945 assessment at the Mastbaum dropped from $1,197,400 to $1,175,500, at the Fox, from $1,369,100 to $1,331,400, Aldine, from $471,000 to $449,800, and at the Boyd, from $492,700 to $487,700. Assessment for William Goldman's Erlanger, still dark, was cut from $499,-800 to $445,000.

Shurlock Submits So. American Study

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 1.—A 10-page report by Geoffrey Shurlock on his nine-weeks' plane tour through South America for the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors Association and the Society For The Americas was furnished to all studios here today. The report, elaborated upon by Shurlock in a press conference, details the attitudes in various countries toward the representation given them in Hollywood pictures and submits suggestions for developing better inter-American relationship through using South American cities as locales of pictures such as were formerly laid in Vienna and other continental capitals. The report also analyzes the South American supply of story material. Since his return a fortnight ago, Shurlock has spent a week conveying his observations to Paramount studio officials; he will visit M-G-M next, and will continue to other studios interested.

Para. Claims 53 Firsts In Film, Talent Polls

Paramount won 53 first places, out of a possible 71, in 26 annual film and talent polls and selections, reported to Jan. 15, the company claimed here yesterday.

"Paramount's total of 'firsts' is more than six times as many as any other company, and three times as many as all other companies combined," the company said.

KRS Charges Bank Would Be Monopoly

(*Continued from page* 1)

ported accusations that Americans exercise a preponderance of control in British exhibition by pointing out that despite Warners buying into Associated British, this has been balanced by M-G-M's relinquishment of its interest in Gaumont-British and Paramount leaving Odeon Theatres.

The KRS is contemplating a resolution taking to task the Government films council's "unfortunate" creation of public misapprehension, and the harm done in this regard.

Quinn to Write Short

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 1.—Don Quinn, writer of the Fibber McGee and Molly radio show, has volunteered to write the screen treatment of the Canadian War Finance Committee's Eighth Victory Loan film for the Hollywood Writers Mobilization. A two-reeler, it will be produced as a contribution of the U. S. industry by 20th Century-Fox; it will have a Hollywood cast. Don Henshaw, of the Dominion's War Finance Committee, is here working with 20th and Tom Baily, co-ordinator of the Holywood division of the War Activities Committee.

Furst Mono. Manager

Nathan Furst, special representative in Monogram's New York exchange, will become branch manager on Feb. 16, succeeding Joseph J. Felder, resigned. Felder will announce his plans following a vacation. He was recently elected second vice-president of the New York Film Board of Trade.

Mexico Labor Board Approves 160% Raise

Chiapas, Mex., Feb. 1.—A wage increase of 160 per cent, highest in the industry in Mexico, has been approved here by the State Labor Board for industry workers. Board declared that the raise was justified because of high living costs.

Para. Has Backlog Of 27 Features

(*Continued from page* 1)

Good To Be True". Also completed are the five Pine-Thomas productions, "High Powered", "Scared Stiff", "One Exciting Night", "Double Exposure" and "Dangerous Passage".

Reagan Sets 'Girls' Preview on Feb. 16

Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, has set special invitational previews for "Bring on the Girls" in all exchange cities. The picture will be released in the fourth block.

Previews will be held in theatres on Feb. 16, except Philadelphia, where it will be shown on the 15th. District and branch managers will be hosts at the previews, which are being held for exhibitors, circuit executives, local industry representatives, press, radio and promotion contacts.

Rubin Installed by Omaha Variety Club

OMAHA, Feb. 1.—Local Variety has installed the following officers: E. I. Rubin, chief barker; F. J. Hannon, first assistant; H. B. Johnson, second assistant; M. L. Stern, dough guy; J. H. Jacobs, property man, and William Barker, Sam Epstein, Walter Green, Don McLucas, Leon Mendelson, H. Novitsky, J. T. McBride, Henry McGrath and Charles Lieb, canvassmen.

Rubin reported that Variety netted more than $13,000 for the Children's Memorial Hospital during 1944. Other charity activities included St. James Orphanage, St. James Boy Scout Troop, Hattie B. Monro Home for Crippled Children, Children's Fresh Air Fund, Jewish Youth and the Red Cross.

Variety Presents Plaque

Janet Blair, Columbia star, yesterday presented a bronze plaque to the Earl of Halifax, British Ambassador to the U. S., in tribute to British and American entertainers who have carried on throughout the London blitz. The presentation was made in behalf of the Variety Clubs of America. Miss Blair was introduced to the Ambassador by Carter Barron, first assistant national chief barker. Among those who attended were Frank La Falce, John J. Payette and Samuel Galanty, Variety members.

To Honor Mrs. Bogart

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 1.—Local Variety club will honor Mrs. Betsy Bogart, retiring after 30 years with the local Warner exchange, at a testimonial dinner on Feb. 19 at the Ambassador Hotel.

Raw Stock Curtails 'Lab' Operations

(Continued from page 1)

week has delayed delivery of raw stock to Consolidated from the Eastman plant in Rochester. Normally, this and other laboratories would have had a sufficient backlog of stock to meet a situation of this nature, but practically all laboratories, for many months now, have been immediately processing whatever stock is received because the film companies have been hard-pressed to meet commitments for feature prints as a result of the general raw stock situation.

Orders New 8-State Freight Embargo

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The Office of Defense Transportation today ordered another weekend freight holiday in eight states and the District of Columbia, but excepted from its application all coal for New York, the New England Area and the West. With the exception of war goods and fuel, no civilian shipments—including raw stock and all film equipment—will be accepted in, or moved to or through Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware or the Northern counties of Virginia or West Virginia, after midnight Friday, until midnight next Tuesday.

Motion pictures prints, however, are not affected by the freight embargoes since they move by express. Shipments of other items required for the maintenance of theatres, are still slowed down in the 17 states which were cut off from rail freight traffic last week.

Rosenfeld, Epstein Head Famous Int'l

Herman Rosenfeld, former European representative for United Artists, is president, and Samuel J. Epstein, formerly of 20th Century-Fox's sales department, vice-president and treasurer, of the newly formed Famous International Film Corp., which will distribute a minimum of six foreign pictures here during 1945 as previously stated.

The first, "Dawn Over France," starring Raimu, will have its premiere at the World Theatre here under the auspices of French Government representatives. Three other French films will also be released in addition to two Swiss features.

Other French films, made during the German occupation and cleared by the French Government, will be acquired.

Brazil Considers Quota for Stock

Buenos Aires, Feb. 1.—The Government is considering imposing a form of 'quota' on film imports from Hollywood and all other countries which manufacture raw stock, requiring the importation of an undetermined amount of raw stock with each print imported.

Newsreels' Raw Stock Cuts

Washington, Feb. 1.—Raw stock allocations to newsreels for the first quarter of 1945, compared with the fourth quarter, 1944, were set here today by the War Production Board as follows:

Company	*Current Quarter*	*Last Quarter*
Movietone News	12,430,600 ft.	12,121,701 ft.
News of the Day	10,801,700 "	11,685,076 "
Paramount	11,566,100 "	11,627,566 "
Pathe	8,590,400 "	7,865,750 "
Universal	6,333,600 "	7,085,524 "
March of Time	1,992,378 "	2,164,195 "

Set Quarter's Raw Stock At 256,000,000 Feet

(Continued from page 1)

longer usable, he will be authorized to make additional prints.

Under the new allocation, the newsreels as a group are permitted to increase the number of prints by 651 a week, in line with a Government desire to give wide distribution, but length of reels will be reduced from 750 to 700 feet per issue.

An effort will be made to establish future quotas of individual companies on a straight percentage basis. After the amount of raw stock available in each quarter has been determined, the companies will be advised of the total and the following percentages will be allocated to each company: Columbia, 11.135; M-G-M and Loew's, 15.513; Monogram, 3.007; Paramount, 11.308; PRC, 2.024; RKO, 10.098; Republic, 6.765; Twentieth Century-Fox, 11.706; United Artists, 5.921; Universal, 10.103; Warner Bros. and Vitagraph, 12.419.

WPB spokesmen said that they did not believe the reduced raw stock allocation for the current quarter would result in the production of fewer films, but indicated that it might be necessary for producers to cut down overlength features and possibly to make fewer short subjects. It was emphasized, however, that there are no restrictions on the use which each producer-distributor makes of his film.

Reissues Safe

WPB said it had no intention of prohibiting re-issues. It was also stated that double-featuring was not discussed at the meeting.

The special problem of United Artists in providing release prints for a large number of independent producers was recognized, and that company was granted an additional allocation of 1,000,000 feet of raw stock per quarter, which it was authorized to use when and as it sees fit.

Adams emphasized that the WPB recognizes the complete autonomy of independent producers, and at their request will determine an individual producer's raw stock allocation, based on his consumption of film during the period from 1941 through 1944. The method of determining the amount of film to which an individual producer may be entitled has not been finally decided. However, any independent producer will be free to transfer from one distribution organization to another and, after his allocation has been determined, can take it with him.

For the purposes of the above, an independent producer is defined as one who qualifies under one or more of the following conditions: one who has complete financial responsibility for his production or in excess of a one-half interest in it; the ownership of all rights to a production; repossession rights to a production after it has been played out; the ownership or operation of a studio; ownership of literary material and talent rights, authority over sales contracts, or a voice in sales policy.

Adams said that further suggestions concerning the definition of an independent producer would be sent in by members of the Industry Advisory Committee after they have conferred with their attorneys, and added that it is likely that the first two conditions specified above ultimately will be the deciding ones.

"We will not allow raw stock in the hands of distributors to be used as a club over producers, or vice versa," Adams said. "On complaint from either side, we will step in and settle disputes of this kind."

Questionnaire Replies

Adams disclosed that a questionnaire sent to the 11 companies by the WPB revealed that a total of only 16 completed features had no 1945 release date set as of January. The replies to the questionnaire also revealed that 528 release prints have been made for nine of the 16 features of the 528 prints. Approximately one half are held in vaults for release to the Army upon request. As of Dec. 31, 1944, Adams said, the total raw stock inventory of the 11 national producing and distributing companies amounted to approximately 10,000,000 feet, or about a five day supply.

"The industry is in the clear on the subject of unreleased product," Adams said. "In fact, it should be complimented for the job it has done."

States rights, or Class C producers, whose raw stock supplies have not been cut heretofore, were reduced by 25 per cent. This compared with a total reduction by national producer-distributors of 30 per cent since 1941.

Present at today's meeting were George J. Schaefer, liaison between the industry committee and WPB; John J. O'Connor, Universal; N. Peter Rathvon, RKO; Jack Cohn, Columbia; T. L. Walker, representing Edward Small; A. W. Schwalberg, International Pictures; James Mulvey, Samuel Goldwyn Productions; Steve Broidy, Monogram; W. C. Michel, 20th Century-Fox; Barney Briskin, representing Sol Lesser; W. L. Titus, Republic; Sam Schneider, Warner Bros.; Leo J. McCarthy, PRC; Barney Balaban, Paramount; Neil Agnew, representing David Selznick; Gradwell Sears, United Artists; L. E. Goldhammer, Film Classics; R. M. Savini, Astor Pictures; Roy Disney, Walt Disney Productions.

British Urge U. S. Raw Stock Saving

(Continued from page 1)

prints. A further cut, they say, would inevitably mean the closing of troop and garrison theatres.

A spokesman for the BOT told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that the board still hopes to "juggle" the demands of the services as to prevent a further raw stock cut. This is dependent, however, upon America's "playing ball."

Sam Eckman, Jr., M-G-M managing director for Great Britain, is preparing a plan whereby his company's releases will be staggered.

Hopeful that the raw stock shortage may be prevented from jeopardizing the showing of British films in the U. S., BOT is considering a proposal whereby prints of "The Way Ahead," for use in America, would be processed here on stock otherwise allotted for American releases. This is seen by local observers as a further indication that both the government and J. Arthur Rank are determined to show British pictures in America at all costs.

According to U. S. War Production Board figures made available here last week, 1,000,000 feet of raw stock are proposed for England for the first quarter of 1945, although none was allocated to that country during the last quarter of 1944. However, the British Information Services received 11,000,000 feet last year, and no allotment for that purpose is included in the present quarter's proposals.

Cowan to Fight OWI Ban on 'Tomorrow'

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 1.—Lester Cowan, here for the opening of "Tomorrow—the World" at the United Artists Theatre Feb. 7, said he would fight the Office of War Information ban against showing the picture in liberated countries. The issue, according to Cowan, is whether OWI has the right to ban the film. "Somebody is doing some master minding; that is, taking a 'papa-knows-best' attitude," he said.

77% of Newsreels Devoted To War

Manner in which newsreels allocated footage in 1944, is indicated by Paramount News, as follows: The European theatre received 35 per cent; Pacific, 13 per cent; home front activities, 16; Armed Forces in camps, training and other activities, four; foreign material on the war, seven, and captured German and Japanese footage, two per cent for a war footage of 77 per cent.

On the domestic front, politics had eight per cent; miscellaneous coverage, eight; sports, six; fashions, one per cent.

Hollywood Sets '45 War-Film Program

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 1.—Seven subjects requested by the Army and Navy, and other Government agencies, to be produced in Hollywood studios, are being prepared for distribution this year. The Hollywood division of the War Activities Committee, of which John Cromwell is chairman and Tom W. Baily, coordinator, announced details here yesterday.

The scripts are being written by members of the Hollywood Writers Mobilization Committee and are the result of several meetings held in Hollywood and New York between WAC chiefs, Elmer Davis of the Office of War Information, Ted R. Gamble, National War Finance director, and Taylor M. Mills, chief of the domestic motion picture bureau of the OWI.

'Adventure in Prosperity'

With Dr. James T. Shotwell as consultant, Edward Eliscu is writing "Adventure in Prosperity", detailing the dependence of all countries on one another's goods and manpower; Allen Rivkin is writing a script on post-war jobs, outlining the efforts of management, agriculture, labor and the Government to attain this goal; "What Every Veteran Should Know" will explain the 'GI' Bill of Rights and other legislation affecting demobilized veterans, from a script by Tom Baily; produced in Technicolor, Walt Disney is completing "Something You Didn't Eat", on nutrition.

David O. Selznick's contribution to the program will be "When He Comes Home", to advise the public how to treat the returning soldier, which Dore Schary will produce; "Facts About Lend-Lease" is to be made for release on the anniversary of the lend-lease program; Oscar Saul is preparing a scenario for "Skyways of Tomorrow," showing how the Air Transport Command is opening pathways for future commercial and private aviation.

Other films contemplated for the 1945 season are being discussed by the newly-elected Hollywood WAC division with Francis S. Harmon, national coordinator.

RCA Names Hudson

Raymond A. Hudson, with RCA Victor as a 16mm equipment specialist since last July, has been promoted to sales representative in the Eastern region, it was reported here yesterday by M. F. Blakeslee, regional manager for New York. Hudson, who was in the field of audio-visual education before joining RCA, will make his headquarters at the company's New York office.

Watch
U. A. releases
bearing
G.C.F.
Presents

Review

"On Approval"

(Sydney Box-Clive Brook-English Films)

CLIVE BROOK, who produced "On Approval," independently with Sydney Box, achieves a *tour de force* and indulges in all sorts of cinematic trickery. Some of it is on the suggestive side. Brook, who sired this screen transcription of a drawing- room comedy, by way of Frederick Lonsdale, produced, directed, did the screen adaptation, and co-starred with Beatrice Lillie, Googie Withers and Roland Culver.

The Book hijinks makes for a puzzling opening (titles and credits are reserved for the end) as an off-screen commentary, by E. V. H. Emmett, on the virtues of the Edwardian era compared to the present speed age, causes wonderment as to whether this is a clever short, or what. Eventually he exhausts his little opening tricks and the film narrows down to high comedy, with Brook, or Lonsdale, highlighting the dialogue with many a bright line.

What action there is concerns Miss Lillie's wooing of Roland Culver for a husband. She decides to take him to her Scotland castle with Brook, an indigent duke, going along to protect Culver's interests. Miss Withers, an American heiress, smitten with Brook, also turns up. When the servants leave the castle, the foursome is thrown upon its own resources and eventually the pairing is switched with Brook succumbing to La Lillie and Culver to Miss Withers. Others in an excellent cast are: O. B. Clarence, Lawrence Hanray, Elliot Mas, Hay Petrie, Marjorie Rhodes and Molly Munks. Sydney Box was executive producer.

Running time, 80 minutes. "A"* Released, Jan. 27.

C. R.

"A" denotes adult classification.

Tax Increase Feared In Massachusetts

BOSTON, Feb. 1.—Exhibitors here are concerned over the special message of Gov. Maurice J. Tobin, asserting that more than $32,000,000 in extra taxes must be assessed in Massachusetts for the next year. Theatre men fear the addition of such a vast amount of taxes will result in a business slowup and bring additional amusement taxes.

Elimination of horse and dog racing takes more than $8,000,000 annually from the State, and this must be made up, Gov. Tobin stated. However, Lt. Gov. Robert F. Bradford said this week that he would use his own influence and efforts to block any legislation which would prove inimical to theatres and film interests. "The latter have done more than any other one agency to keep up the morale and furnish the sinews of war, and we certainly would be ungrateful not to protect them against adverse legislation," he said.

Aldrich Praises Film Aid in War Drives

Winthrop W. Aldrich, president of the National War Fund, has termed the fund films produced by the industry and distributed by the War Activities Committee of the industry, the "most effective single publicity instrument" of fund campaigns for the past two years.

Aldrich had requested the industry to again make a short for the drive next Fall. Pathe News will make it, as it did last year.

No Action on Rentals

At a meeting here yesterday of the Independent Theatre Owners Association, complaints of high costs of film rentals were discussed, but no decision was made on what attitude should be taken by the organization about the situation. Also discussed was theatre manpower and fuel problems. Harry Brandt presided.

New Clearance for East Alton Theatre

Fred Armstrong, arbitrator in the St. Louis tribunal, has entered a consent award granting maximum clearance to the Grand Theatre, East Alton, Ill., over the Ritz theatre, also East Alton, operated by Sol and Irvin Goldfarb, of 48 days, but not later than 76 days after availability of pictures to the Grand, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday. Complaint was filed against the five consenting companies.

The arbitrator also provided that the maximum clearance that may be granted to the Princess, at Alton, over the Ritz, shall be 30 days and not later than 76 days after availability to the Princess.

At the same time, the AAA reported that arbitrator Wilbur B. Jones has entered a consent award in St. Louis declaring that in all future licenses given by the decree defendants, availability granted to the Gaty Theatre, East St. Louis, Ill., shall be "no later than seven days after the Esquire, East St. Louis, and the same availability as the Roxy in the same city."

A. D. Magarian is the operator of the Gaty.

Nominate Seven for Special Effects Prize

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 1.—Seven pictures have been nominated for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences award in the special effects division. They are: "Secret Command," Columbia; "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," M-G-M; "Story of Dr. Wassell," Paramount; "Days of Glory," RKO; "Wilson," 20th Century-Fox; "Adventures of Mark Twain," Warners; "Since You Went Away," Selznick-International.

Thumpers' Headquarters

BOSTON, Feb. 1.—The Boston tub of the Tub Thumpers of America will establish permanent headquarters in the Parker House here. Dan Hickey, clerk for the group, will be in charge of the office.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Feb. 1

DAVID O. SELZNICK has acceded to Ingrid Bergman's request that she be permitted to co-star with Bing Crosby in "The Bells of St. Mary's," which Leo McCarey will produce and direct for RKO. . . . Marlowe has been cast for one of leads in "Junior Miss" at 20th Century-Fox.

•

Lon Chaney will star in Universal's "Strange Confession," next in the studio's Inner Sanctum mystery series. . . . Paramount producers Pine and Thomas have written an original story, titled "Over-Exposed," which they will produce as a follow-up to "Double Exposure." . . . "Allotment Wives" will be the second Monogram feature to star Kay Franacis. Jeffrey Bernerd will co-produce with Miss Francis.

•

Darryl F. Zanuck will make "California Here We Come", a high-budget film based on the American Rangers' rescue of prisoners from Bataan, with Carl R. Wing, rescued cameraman, as the central character.... Warner Bros. has announced "Target Japan", to be produced by Jerry Wald and directed by Raoul Walsh, who handled those assignments on "Objective, Burma", and using also the same star cast.

•

Lex Barker has been signed to a term contract by 20th Century-Fox, and will appear in "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim," which William LeBaron will direct. . . . Del Lord will direct "Blonde from Brooklyn" for Columbia. . . . Maria Palmer has been added to the cast of Universal's "Lady on a Train." . . . Linda Darnell is set for the feminine lead in 20th Century-Fox's "Fallen Angel."

•

Burt Kelly is slated to produce "Song of Broadway" for Columbia. . . . "Tomorrow Is Another Day," by W. R. Burnett, has been purchased by Warners. . . . Sir Aubrey Smith, Eric Von Stroheim and Stephanie Bachelor will have the top roles in "Scotland Yard Investigator," which George Blair will produce and direct for Republic. . . . 20th Century-Fox has exercised its option on Jane Ball.

•

"The Gallant Blade," based on a story by Alexander Dumas, will be produced for Columbia by Michel Kraike. . . . Sig Herzig, author of "Bloomer Girl," has been signed by Universal to write a screenplay in which Deanna Durbin will be starred. . . . PRC has signed Eric Sinclair.

•

Joan Woodbury has been selected for the feminine lead in the Monogram Western, "Flaming Frontier." . . . Charles Ruggles will have an important role in "Stolen Life," next Warner production to star Bette Davis. . . . Republic has renewed Don Barry's contract. . . . Tom Neal has been signed by RKO for the title role in "First Man Into Tokyo."

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 25 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1945 | TEN CENTS

WPB Freezes Stock, New Producers Cannot Qualify

Formula Holds Industry to 1944 Status For This Year; Allocations Solely to Producers; They Will Supply Distributors

By SHERWIN KANE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The War Production Board's new raw stock allocation formula, announced here on Thursday 'freezes' the industry in its 1944 status for the ensuing year, Stanley Adams, head of the WPB's consumers' durable goods division, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

For the remainder of 1945, all available raw stock is to be allocated to companies which were active producers in the period from 1941 to Dec. 31, 1944, according to individual percentages assigned last week and published in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Friday. Raw stock will not be allocated to independent producers or companies which had not completed a production prior to Jan. 1, 1945, or to companies formed thereafter.

Under the new allocation system, expansion of production or distribution by established companies is effectively curbed and new companies cannot qualify for stock allocation.

Moreover, where heretofore the practice has been to allocate raw stock to distributors, under the new formula distribution will be ignored and allocations will be made solely to producers, whether companies or independents. Producers will, of course, be obliged to provide for their release prints for distribution out of their original stock allocations. However, the producer's stock quota is his own, to do with as he sees fit, to apply it exclusively to his own production and

(Continued on page 7)

Rank Plans to Aid Rebirth of German Films

He Also Seeks Extension In Mexico, So. America

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Feb. 4.—J. Arthur Rank has been making overtures to non-Nazi German motion picture interests with a view to assisting in the rehabilitation of the German industry as speedily as possible after the Allied Armies conquer that land, MOTION PICTURE DAILY learned here at the weekend.

Meanwhile, Barrington Gain and Dr. Alexander Galperson, Rank representatives who plan a visit to the United States to arrange "Henry V" roadshows, will proceed from there to Mexico, reportedly at the instance of the Mexican government, to arrange theatre outlets for British product in that country, after which they will go to South America on a similar mission, again with governmental "blessing."

WPB Curbs Heating Of Theatres by Gas

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The War Production Board on Friday suddenly ordered a ban on the use of natural or mixed gas in theatres and other places of amusement in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, and parts of Maryland and Virginia.

The order provided that the ban

(Continued on page 7)

4 N. Y. Percentage Suits Are Filed

Four suits, claiming $180,000 damages, were filed Friday in New York State Supreme Court here by 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, Loew's and Warners, against Irving Renner, Louis Nelson, various corporations operating the Endicott Circuit and William Namenson, accountant for the circuit, for allegedly making fraudulent box office reports on grosses received on percentage pictures exhibited by the defendants

(Continued on page 7)

Chi. Expects Print Tieup

CHICAGO, Feb. 4.—Last Friday's reduction of raw stock for the industry, by the War Production Board in Washington, by 16,000,000 feet for this quarter—from the 272,000,000 of the last quarter of 1944, to 256,000,000 feet—resulting in fewer features and fewer prints, will bring hardships for subsequent runs here, but little, if any, trouble for the first runs in the Loop, according to present indications.

The current cooperative trend be-

(Continued on page 7)

Williams Is SCTOA Successor to Law

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Paul Williams, former assistant to the U. S. Attorney General in earlier film anti-trust suit proceedings of the Department of Justice, is resigning from Government service to become counsel of the Southern California Theatre Owners Association, it was

(Continued on page 2)

WLB Certification Ends SPU Strike

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 4.—The Screen Players Union strike, which started Friday morning, ended that night when Departemnt of Labor conciliator Earl J. Ruddy telegraphed that the jurisdictional dispute with the Screen Actors Guild had been certified to the War Labor Board. Many members of the machinists', carpenters', set decorators' and other Conference of Studio Unions locals had left their posts in sympathy and several stars had refused to cross the picket lines around the major studios.

Academy Nominations Set For March 15th Awards

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 4.—The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences today announced the nominations in its 17th annual awards competition, with the results of the ballotting to be disclosed on March 15 at Grauman's Chinese Theatre here. For the first time in Academy history, one player—Barry Fitzgerald—is named in two divisions for the same performance, his role in "Going My Way." The nominations follow:

Best picture: "Double Indemnity," Paramount; "Gaslight," MGM; "Going My Way," Paramount; "Since You Went Away," Selznick; "Wilson," 20th Century-Fox.

Best performance by an actor: Bing Crosby and Fitzgerald in "Going My Way"; Charles Boyer, "Gaslight";

(Continued on page 7)

U. S. Files Decree Proposals Today

Washington, Feb. 4.—Details of the Department of Justice proposals for an interim consent decree will be disclosed tomorrow in a brief due to be filed with Judge Henry W. Goddard in New York Federal District Court. Primary objective of the proposals is the dropping of clearance between theatres charging the same prices or not actively in competition.

The defendants will have two weeks in which to file their answers to the brief.

N. Y. Independents Protest Stock Cut

The board of directors of the Independant Theatre Owners Association, at a special meeting here at the weekend, instructed Max A. Cohen, head of its film committee, to wire Washington and 'demand' an immediate hearing on the raw stock situation, especially as regarding the number of prints to be allotted each film. Cohen sent a wire to Stanley Adams of the War Production Board, and requests to Milton Star of the War Production Board, and Si Fabian of the War Activities Committee, that

(Continued on page 7)

Personal Mention

WILL H. HAYS, president of the MPPDA, left Hollywood at the weekend for New York.

•

WILLIAM A. SCULLY, Universal vice-president and general sales manager, will entrain from Hollywood for New York tomorrow, accompanied by MAURICE A. BERGMAN, Eastern advertising-publicity manager. At the same time, JOSEPH H. SEIDELMAN, vice-president and foreign distribution manager, will leave the Coast for Mexico City, after which he will return to New York.

•

HERBERT CROOKER, M-G-M director of publicity will leave tomorrow for the Coast for a 10-day visit from New York. He will stop in Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Milwaukee on his return.

•

FRANK N. PHELPS, Warner Theatres executive, will return to his desk today after a three-week absence due to an auto accident.

•

RUBE JACKTER, Columbia assistant general sales manager, left over the weekend for Detroit. He will return here Wednesday.

•

ROBERT WEITMAN, managing director of the Paramount Theatre, New York, will leave for the Coast Wednesday.

•

HARRY GOLDBERG, Warner Theatres director of advertising-publicity, was in Philadelphia over the weekend.

•

IRVING MANDEL, Chicago exchange manager for Monogram, has returned there from a Florida vacation.

•

TREM CARR, Monogram executive producer, has entered a Hollywood hospital for a checkup.

•

HARRY A. GOLD, United Artists Eastern sales manager, will be in Detroit today.

•

ROLAND REED, producer, is in New York from California.

Denies Rains Given Tax Dispensation

LONDON, Feb. 4.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the House of Commons at the weekend, denied an accusation by Aneurin Bevan, left-wing critic of J. Arthur Rank, that a special income tax dispensation had been extended to Claude Rains during his stay here for the filming of "Caesar and Cleopatra."

Diamond Arrives Here

Jack Diamond, member of Warners' publicity staff department on the West Coast, arrived in New York over the weekend to participate in the company's special campaign on "Hotel Berlin," working with the Eastern publicity department, headed by Larry Golob.

Para. Kansas City Meet Starts Today

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 4.—Paramount will hold the final in its series of Western division sales meetings at the Hotel Muehlbach here starting tomorrow, to be followed by a luncheon for local exhibitors on Tuesday.

Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution; R. M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director, and Claude Lee, director of public relations, will be present, in addition to George Smith, Western division manager; Ralph C. LiBeau, district manager, and branch managers from St. Louis, Des Moines and Kansas City as well as district advertising representatives, salesmen and booking managers of the three exchanges.

Central district meetings will start in Dallas Wednesday, with James J. Donohue, Central division manager, who left New York, last Friday, presiding; subsequent meetings will be held in Chicago and Cleveland. A Dallas meeting will be held at the Baker Hotel, Feb. 8-9; Chicago, Feb. 12-13, at the Palmer House and Cleveland, Feb. 14-15, at the Hotel Cleveland.

Broidy to Preside At Chicago Meet

CHICAGO, Feb. 4.—A Midwest district sales meeting will be held by Monogram at the Blackstone Hotel, here, Tuesday, to be addressed by Steve Broidy, general sales manager. Exchange executives who will attend include Irving Mandel, Chicago; Carl Harthill, Indianapolis; C. W. Trampe, Milwaukee; Thomas A. Burke, Minneapolis, and Barney Rosenthal, St. Louis.

Broidy is expected to make a report on the industry's advisory committee raw stock meeting with the War Production Board which he attended in Washington on Friday. Monogram's first-quarter raw stock allotment was reduced from the 8,170,000 feet of the last quarter of 1944 to 7,697,920 feet, a cut of 473,000 for the current three months.

DeHavilland Wins in Contract Suit Appeal

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 4.—Passing on a case appealed from the lower courts, the California Supreme Court ruled on Friday that Olivia DeHavilland is not bound to work an additional 25 weeks for Warners under a contract which the actress considered expired at the end of a seven-year calendar period. The studio had maintained that 25 weeks the star was under suspension did not apply to the term. The case is considered precedental, but with respect to talent contracts generally, the studio at weekend said, "No comment."

'Kings' Rights to ICF

Latin American rights to "Kings of the Ring" have been acquired by Inter-Continental Films, from Stadium Pictures Corp.

Williams Is SCTOA Successor to Law

(Continued from page 1)

learned here at the weekend. Williams, who will succeed the late Albert Law, who died suddenly in New York Jan. 2, is understood to have submitted his resignation to Attorney General Francis Biddle.

Law had just started negotiations with producer-distributor heads on a trade conciliation plan, designed to simplify the provisions of abritration, without in any way superceding it. He had hoped to have his plan incorporated in the industry consent decree. Williams is expected to continue Law's plan.

A native of Salt Lake City, where he maintained a law practice, he joined the Department in 1933. He was in charge of the investigatorial work and the drafting of the original bill of complaint in the consent decree suit, and was prepared to go to trial when the decree ended the litigation, at least temporarily.

Richard Tully Dies, Former Film Writer

Richard Walton Tully, 67, playwright and former film writer, died late last week at New York Presbyterian Hospital. The best known of his plays, "The Bird of Paradise," was a subject of court litigation for 18 years, before it was finally decided that Tully had not plagiarised.

A film version of "The Bird of Paradise" was made in 1932, with Dolores Del Rio and Joel McCrea. Tully was a screen writer for a short time prior to his retirement in 1932. He is survived by his widow and a daughter.

NBC Sets Television Sales Heads, Series

Reynold R. Kraft has been appointed sales manager and John H. Dodge, assistant sales manager of NBC's television department, it was diclosed by John F. Royal, vice-president in charge of television.

It was announced at the same time that Pan-American World Airways has signed the first airline contract for a sponsored series of television programs on NBC's New York television station, WNBT, to start March 19. Titled "Wings of Democracy," a 52-week series of 15-minute shows will start with a combination "live talent" and film broadcast and will then telecast film only.

Trammell Succeeds Dawes on RCA Board

Niles Trammell, president of NBC, has been elected to the board of RCA, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Gen. Charles G. Dawes.

Frank M. Folsom, RCA vice-president in charge of the RCA Victor division, was elected a director of NBC, likewise replacing Dawes.

87½-Cent RCA Dividend

RCA announced at the weekend a dividend of 87 and a half cents per share on the $3.50 cumulative first preferred stock, payable April 2 to stockholders of record on March 5.

Mercurio Will Sell Paramount in Spain

MADRID, Feb. 4.—Paramount films will be distributed in Spain by Paramount-Mercurio Films, S.A., according to an announcement made here today on the authority of John W. Hicks, Jr., president of Paramount International. A long term contract has been agreed to by Paramount Films de Espana, S. A. and Mercurio Films, effective immediately.

Contract is based on an agreement signed with Paramount in New York in October, by Peter Couret of Mercurio, who returned to Spain with Robert C. Alexander of Paramount. Robert L. Graham, Paramount special representative, joined Couret and Alexander in Spain later, to complete final arrangements. The Couret family has handled films of United States and British companies for years, including Paramount's.

Paramount Films de Espana, S. A. was incorporated in Albany, N. Y., in Oct., 1944. Officers are: John W. Hicks, Jr., president; George Weltner and Robert C. Alexander, vice-presidents; Roger C. Clement, secretary; Milton Kirshenberg, treasurer. Alexander serves as resident executive in Spain.

Combine to Elect Officers This Week

Seventy independent New Jersey exhibitors will meet this week in New York to elect officers for the new buying-booking combine they are in the process of forming, it was revealed at the weekend by Lee W. Newbury, who has 12 theatres in New Jersey. A meeting was held last Thursday at the Stacey-Trent Hotel, Trenton, at which organization plans and tentative contracts were discussed. A continuation of this discussion will be held at this week's meeting.

Exhibitor members represent those who buy both from New York and Philadelphia exchanges.

Senate Passes Bill To Curb Petrillo

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The Senate last Friday without a dissenting vote passed the bill introduced by Senator Vandenberg to outlaw any interference or conspiracy to interfere with broadcasts of non-commercial educational or cultural programs by educational institutions. The bill, aimed at the interference of James C. Petrillo, American Federation of Musicians head, with these broadcasts, now goes before the House.

Lighting Show Postponed

CHICAGO, Feb. 4.—The international lighting exposition scheduled for April 19-23, here has been postponed until next year, it was reported by S. R. Naysmith, chairman of the industrial and commercial light equipment division of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. The action was taken to reduce convention travel in line with Government orders.

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THE LUSTIEST MELODRAMA EVER SET TO MUSIC

and in **TECHNICOLOR** *too!*

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INTERNATIONAL PICTURES, INC.

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THE SCREEN'S TO

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Who runs Gentleman Jack's Saloon

Gypsy Rose
LEE
Queen of the dance hall darlings

Dinah
SHORE
Songbird of the Frozen North

Bob
BURNS
Slickest of the Slickers

Charles
WINNINGER
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WILLIAM A. SEITER

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Musical Extravaganza

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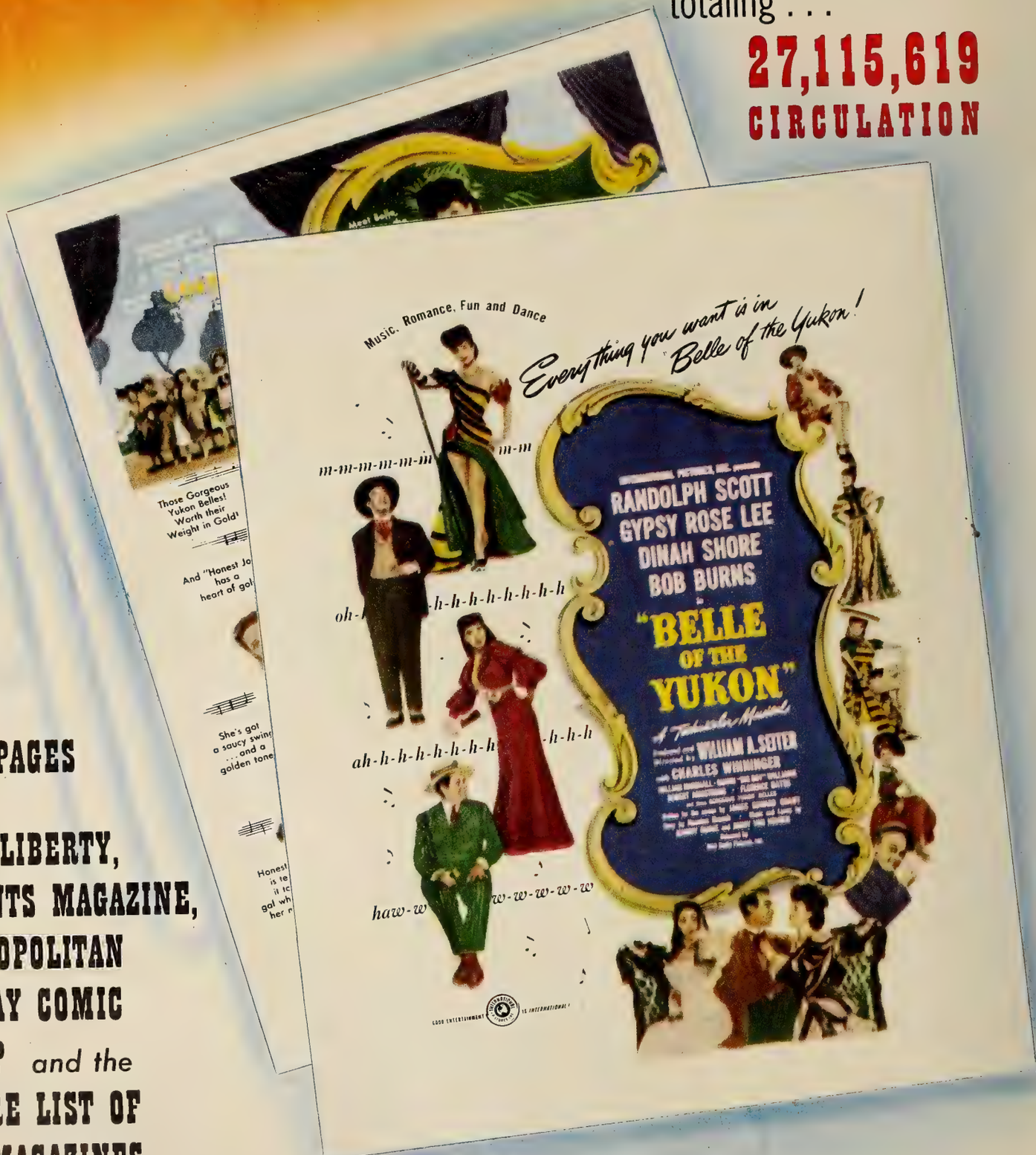

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LIFE, LIBERTY, PARENTS MAGAZINE, METROPOLITAN SUNDAY COMIC GROUP *and the* **ENTIRE LIST OF FAN MAGAZINES...**

Also backed by national radio, record and sheet-music tieups including Dinah Shore and Bob Burns in their own radio shows and recorded numbers from picture by Bing Crosby and Dinah Shore.

GOOD ENTERTAINMENT IS *INTERNATIONAL*

RELEASED THROUGH RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.

Nominations Made By Academy for March 15th Awards

(Continued from page 1)

Cary Grant, "None But the Lonely Heart," RKO; Alexander Knox, "Wilson."

Best performance by an actress: Ingrid Bergman, "Gaslight"; Claudette Colbert, "Since You Went Away"; Bette Davis, "Mr. Skeffington," Warner; Greer Garson, "Mrs. Parkington" MGM; Barbara Stanwyck, "Double Indemnity."

Best performance by an actor in a supporting role: Hume Cronyn, "The Seventh Cross," MGM; Barry Fitzgerald, "Going My Way"; Claude Rains, "Mr. Skeffington"; Clifton Webb, "Laura," 20th-Fox; Monty Woolley, "Since You Went Away."

Best performance by an actress in a supporting role: Ethel Barrymore, "None But the Lonely Heart"; Jennifer Jones, "Since You Went Away"; Angela Lansbury, "Dragon Seed," MGM; Agnes Moorehead, "Mrs. Parkington."

Best achievement in direction: Billy Wilder for "Double Indemnity"; Leo McCarey, "Going My Way"; Otto Preminger, "Laura"; Alfred Hitchcock, "Lifeboat," 20th-Fox; Henry King, "Wilson."

Best written screen play: Billy Wilder and Raymond Chandler, "Double Indemnity"; John Van Druten, Walter Reisch and John L. Balderston, "Gaslight"; Frank Butler and Frank Cavett, "Going My Way"; Jay Dratler, Samuel Hoffenstein and Betty Reinhardt, "Laura"; Irving Brecher and Fred F. Filnlehoffe, "Meet Me in St. Louis," MGM.

Sturges for Two

Best original screenplay: Preston Sturges, "Hail the Conquering Hero" and "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek," Paramount; Richard Connell and Gladys Lehman, "Two Girls and a Sailor," MGM; Lamar Trotti, "Wilson"; Jerome Cady, "Wing and a Prayer," 20th-Fox.

Best original story: Leo McCarey, "Going My Way"; Chandler Sprague and David Boehm, "A Guy Named Joe," MGM; John Steinbeck, "Lifeboat"; Alfred Neumann and Joseph Than, "None Shall Escape," Columbia; Edward Doherty and Jules Schermer, "The Sullivans," 20th-Fox.

Best scoring of a musical picture: "Brazil," Republic; "Cover Girl," Columbia; "Higher and Higher," RKO; "Hollywood Canteen," Warner; "Irish Eyes Are Smiling," 20th-Fox; "Knickerbocker Holiday," Producers Corporation of America; "Lady in the Dark," Paramount; "Lady, Let's Dance," Monogram; "Meet Me in St. Louis"; "The Merry Monahans," Universal; "Minstrel Man," PRC; "Sensations of 1945," Andrew Stone; "Song of the Open Road," Charles Rogers; "Up in Arms," Goldwyn.

Best music score in a drama or comedy: "Address Unknown," Columbia; "Adventures of Mark Twain," Warner; "The Bridge of San Luis Rey," Benjamin Bogeaus; "Casanova Brown," International; "Christmas Holiday," Universal; "Double Indemnity"; "The Fighting Seabees," Republic; "The Hairy Ape," Jules Levey; "It Happened Tomorrow," Arnold Pressburger; "Jack London," Samuel Bronston; "Kismet," MGM; "None But the Lonely Heart"; "The Princess and the Pirate," Goldwyn; "Since You Went Away"; "Summer Storm," Angelus; "Three Russian Girls," R & F; "Up in Mabel's Room," Edward Small; "Voice in the Wind," Ripley-Monter; "Wilson"; "The Woman of the Town," Harry Sherman.

Best original song: "Couldn't Sleep a Wink Last Night"; "I'll Walk Alone"; "I'm Making Believe"; "Long Ago and Far Away"; "Now I Know"; "Remember Me to Carolina"; "Rio de Janeiro"; "Silver Shadows and Golden Dreams"; "Sweet Dreams Sweetheart"; "Swinging on a Star"; "Too Much in Love"; "The Trolley Song."

WPB Freezes Stock, New Producers Cannot Qualify

(Continued from page 1)

distribution purposes or to make part of it available to a new independent producer who may become affiliated with his company.

Thus the national distributing companies will have access to raw stock during 1945 only by virtue of their production operations. Independent producers who completed pictures prior to 1945 under qualifications which remain to be formalized by WPB, will receive individual raw stock allocations equivalent to approximately 70 per cent of their 1941 stock consumption, or 95 per cent of their 1944 consumption. These allocations do not belong to the company through which the independent producer releases. The releasing company becomes merely the repository for the independent producer's raw stock, and the independent producer may take that stock with him in the event he transfers to a new distributor.

In this connection, United Artists, as solely a distributing company, is entitled to no raw stock of its own. It acts as the repository for the raw stock allocated to the individual producers who released through United Artists in 1941-'44 and who remain with the company.

Adams said that prospects of the raw stock shortage being eased during the second quarter are "not bright" and that the new regulations will be rigidly enforced as a result. Overdrawing of quotas, more or less common in the past, will not be tolerated. Hereafter, he said, companies are being asked to account for overdrawn stock and, to date, Adams revealed, four companies have been found to be over their quotas for the last quarter.

The footage overdrawn in the last quarter will be deducted from future allocations of the offending companies, Adams said, and that practice will be adhered to in the future. He said the subject was most serious and could involve withdrawal of allocations and criminal prosecution.

A meeting will be held here about March 15, at which time the companies will be notified of the total amount of raw stock to be available for the second quarter. Each accredited producer, by applying the percentage of the total that has been assigned to him, will know how much footage he will be entitled to receive during the second quarter.

Chicago Expects a Tieup of Prints

(Continued from page 1)

tween distributors and first run exhibitors to avoid milking 'A' product, so that neighborhood houses can secure it with less delay, will suffer a setback, and Loop houses will again extend playing dates of 'box office' product. There always has been a backlog of product awaiting first run release, but the acute raw stock situation will swell that backlog.

Independent neighborhood exhibitors will be forced to rely more than ever before on re-issues.

Freight Ban Causes Closing of 2 'Labs'

The weekend freight holiday ordered by the Office of Defense Transportation, combined with the critical raw stock shortage has forced the closing of both DeLuxe and Pathe processing laboratories here today.

Independent neighborhood exhibitors will be forced to rely more than ever before on re-issues.

France to Receive Tons of Films

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Purchase of tons of motion picture films, to be exported to France for civilian use, is being worked out by the War Production Board, Foreign Economic Administration, and other Government agencies, it was disclosed at the weekend by the Office of War Information. The film is part of a many-million-dollar program of non-military purchases which is now being processed, the OWI said in a review of French military and civilian needs.

WPB Curbs Heating Of Theatres by Gas

(Continued from page 1)

would apply until seven p.m. Monday, or "until further notice," with prospects that it would be extended should the prolonged cold weather which necessitated conservation continue.

The prohibition against the use of gas did not apply where manufactured gas only was used, but was directed at natural gas, whether used 'straight' or in combination with manufactured gas.

WPB officials did not estimate how many theatres would be affected by the order, but said that in some sections of the area covered natural gas is used extensively, and in those places it was expected theatres would have to close.

Six Cincinnati Closings

CINCINNATI, Feb. 4.—The downtown Royal Theatre and suburban Vogue, Ritz, Crescent, Forest and Imperial were closed over the weekend by the WPB gas embargo.

4 N. Y. Percentage Suits Are Filed

(Continued from page 1)

from 1940-44. This is the third move in what is believed to be a series of such actions contemplated by the distributors. Similar suits are now pending in Pittsburgh and Boston.

Complaint charged the defendants "bribed plaintiff's checkers" to make alleged fraudulent reports. Specific charges were made by 20th-Fox with respect to "Hello, Frisco, Hello", "Coney Island," "Sweet Rosie O'Grady," and "Shores of Tripoli." Paramount's films included "Dixie," "Reap the Wild Wind," "Road To Morocco," "Holiday Inn" and "Star Spangled Rhythm." Loew's listed "Gone With the Wind," "Mrs. Miniver," "Human Comedy," "Random Harvest," "See Here, Private Hargrove." Warners' listed "Yankee Doodle Dandy," "Casablanca," "Air Force" and "Mission to Moscow." Many other films are named, but the above mentioned were the important ones.

Defendants obtained benefits in price on flat rentals due to alleged low grosses, it is alleged. Twentieth-Fox seeks $25,000; Paramount, $25,000; Loew's, $100,000 and Warners, $30,000 in damages. Next move will be an application to examine books and records of the defendants.

Investigations of books and records of other theatre owners are being conducted it was said, later. Louis Nizer is attorney for the complainants.

N. Y. Independents Protest Stock Cut

(Continued from page 1)

they 'act' on their wire to Adams, and obtain a hearing.

Adams was urged "to give immediate consideration to the War Production Board order cutting the present quota of raw stock. This order means cutting down the presesnt number of prints now being processed. Cutting down the number will not have any effect on first run theatres, but will definitely affect subsequent run theatres, with resultant financial damage. There can be no quarrel with an order which is equitable to all parties concerned, but this order will be so discriminatory that an irreparable injustice will be heaped upon subsequent run independent exhibitors of this country."

Monogram to Rubinsky

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 4.—The Mark Rubinsky circuit of Pennsylvania has booked the entire Monogram program for 1944-45.

Watch U. A. releases bearing G.C.F. Presents

Achtung!

Sie werden

Hotel Berlin

sehr bald von innen sehen! Dies war vorher nicht möglich! Wie zeitgemäss sind doch

Gebr. Warner!

JACK L. WARNER
Executive Producer

Official translation:
ATTENTION! YOU ARE VERY SOON TO SEE THE INSIDE OF THE HOTEL BERLIN! THIS HAS NOT FOR AMERICANS BEFORE BEEN POSSIBLE! ACH! THOSE TIMELY WARNER BROS.!

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 26 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1945 | TEN CENTS

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Raw Stock for Producers in Service Likely

WPB Weighs Exceptions To Freezing Regulations

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—Special provision may be made by the War Production Board to allocate raw stock to qualified independent producers who, because they were with the armed services, did not complete pictures during the period from 1941 to 1945. Unless an exception is made such producers would not otherwise be entitled to a stock allocation under the WPB's new regulations.

Such an exception would benefit a producer such as Hal Roach, it was pointed out here by way of example, but would not necessarily be of help to Frank Capra, who completed no productions during the determining period because of military service but would be unable to qualify as an independent producer in any event under

(Continued on page 7)

5 Millions for 'Dimes' Drive

When all reports are in, film theatre collections for the 1945 March of Dimes should top last year's $4,667,000 by several hundred thousand dollars, it was predicted here yesterday by members of the industry's drive committee, based on the percentage of increase shown in early returns from several circuits.

Incomplete reports from Loew's show approximately $530,000 this

(Continued on page 8)

88 Houses Without Coal May Close

Approximately 88 theatres in the city's five boroughs are without coal today, and may be forced to close. With the coal shortage growing more serious, and with little, if any relief in sight, scores of New York's 700 houses are faced with a situation which may result in an enforced closing, especially neighborhood houses.

Mayor LaGuardia has indicated that theatres will not be closed by

(Continued on page 8)

Connors Sets First Plans for 20th's 30th Anniversary

Twentieth Century-Fox's 30th anniversary in April will be marked by an international celebration of its three decades, it was announced here yesterday by Tom Connors, vice-president in charge of sales.

Tom Connors

It was in 1915 that the William Fox Corp. went into production at Fort Lee, N. J. and later a second studio was started in New York City. Shortly afterwards films were produced in California. The company's first

(Continued on page 8)

N. Y. Salesmen at Work on Demands

The temporary executive committee of the newly-formed union of salesmen of the New York territory is drafting proposals for a contract and salary and other demands, to be presented to film companies, it is learned here.

Meanwhile, a committee representing the new group is studying a pos-

(Continued on page 7)

Sam Pinanski Heads Seventh War Drive

Si Fabian, chairman of the theatres division of the War Activities Committee, yesterday confirmed *Motion Picture Daily's* report of last Dec. 8, that Samuel Pinanski, president of M. and P. Theatres, Boston, has been appointed national industry chairman of the 7th War Loan drive, accepting the invitation extended by the WAC.

Definite dates for the drive, probably sometime this Spring, are being awaited from the Treasury.

Consolidated, Setay Merge with Republic In a New Company

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—Consolidated Film Industries, Inc., and the Setay Corporation will be merged with Republic and a new company will be formed under the latter name, it was learned here today.

Financing, now before the Securities and Exchange Commission for approval, provides for a debenture issue and stock in the proposed company under splitups accommodating the value of securities now held under their re-

(Continued on page 7)

U. S. Hits at Clearance in Decree Plan

Will Ask for Injunction Mar. 5 Pending Outcome

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The Department of Justice today asked Judge Henry W. Goddard of the Federal District Court in New York to enjoin the five "decree companies" from granting "unreasonable clearance" pending the entry of a final decree, and served notice upon the defendants in the suit that it would make an oral plea for issuance of the injunction March 5.

A 24-page memorandum and notice of the motion was filed with the Court by attaches of the New York office of the anti-trust division upon instruction of Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, in which it was charged that the defendants, since the suit was filed, have imposed unreasonable clear-

(Continued on page 6)

New Trial of Murray Suit

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—Ruling that there was no evidence that proved them a part of the alleged conspiracy, Federal Judge William H. Holly this afternoon dismissed Loew's, Inc., and 20th Century-Fox as defendants in the Thomas A. Murray case. The judge, acting on motions filed by counsel, also granted a new trial to the re-

(Continued on page 6)

Loew's Has Solution to Aid Theatre 'Brownout'

Theatres in the Loew's circuit throughout the U. S. and some others are installing a marquee lighting system that employs the features of and gives the same brilliance as an automobile headlight, to provide better marquee lighting without using more electric power than is required to light the single 60-watt bulb permitted under the War Production Board's new "brownout" to conserve electric power.

Bulbs in automobile headlights are usually of 32 or 50-candlepower strength, and the 32-candlepower is equivalent to a 25 watt bulb, 50-candlepower being equivalent to 37 watts. One of each size can be used in an automobile-type unit to provide sufficient marquee lighting for adequate front-of-the-theatre displays without using more than the permitted 60

(Continued on page 6)

Hays Seeks to Get Johnston in MPPDA

Hollywood, Feb. 5.—Discussing reports of Eric Johnston joining the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Will H. Hays said here today: "I certainly hope he will. He enriches any effort or enterprise with which he is connected. I am earnestly endeavoring to bring it about. We have had many conferences with him to that end, but nothing has been concluded."

Hays, who arrived here today from New York, will remain a month.

WPB Clarifies Its Lighting Order

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—Parking lots operated in conjunction with theatres may be lighted to the extent necessary for public safety, provided no illumination is used for advertising or promotional or display purposes, it was announced here today by the War Production Board in a new series of

(Continued on page 8)

Reviewed Today

Review of "See My Lawyer" appears on page 9.

Ruggles Sees Link Between U. S., U. K.

In producing "London Town," a musical in color for J. Arthur Rank in England, as the first of two, Wesley Ruggles, in an interview, voices the hope that his use of an All-British cast, coupled with contributions to the score, sets and costumes by Americans, may further relations between the two industries.

Ruggles has a second story selected for production in England but, since he is negotiating for the stage rights, he did not reveal its title. Wesley Ruggles Prod. has been formed as an autonomous production unit with Rank financing. United Artists will distribute in the U. S. "Town" will start shooting at the end of July, because of the shortage of studio space, either at Denham or Pinewood, Ruggles said, and is budgeted for $1,000,000. Ruggles said that he may produce more than two but will not direct the additional films.

American talent contributing to the production include: Ruggles, who did the story; John Burke and James Van Husen, who did the score; Ernst Fegte, who designed the sets, and Orry Kelly, the costumes. The designs will be taken over to England and executed there, Ruggles said. He will take four others to London, including a dance director, orchestrator and production man.

Ruggles, who arrived here after a stay on the Coast, is scheduled to leave for England shortly.

Caspary to England, "Bedelia" at Pinewood

LONDON, Feb. 4.—Vera Caspary, author of "Bedelia", is expected to arrive here shortly from the U. S. to aid in the production of that film for J. Arthur Rank. Production will probably be at Pinewood Studio and not at Worton Hall as was previously intended, indicating that the government has arranged to re-equip Pinewood sooner than has been thought here.

Meet Here Thursday In SOPEG Pact Fight

Representatives of the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local 109, CIO, and Loew's, 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, RKO and Columbia will probably meet here Thursday with Commissioner James W. Fitzpatrick of the U. S. Conciliation Service, for a review of negotiations in the wages and contract dispute involving some 2,000 'white collar' workers in home offices of the five companies.

SOPEG and company representatives have been meeting here repeatedly in an attempt to iron out the points in the dispute; progress has been made, it is learned.

AMPA Meets Thursday

Martin Starr, president of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers, announced here yesterday that the organization will have its closed luncheon-meeting on Thursday, at the Hickory House, here. Only members and the trade press are invited.

Personal Mention

PHIL REISMAN, RKO vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, is scheduled to leave for London in the near future.

•

RUSSELL HOLMAN, head of Paramount's Eastern production department, returned yesterday from Hollywood, accompanied by JOHN BYRAM, play editor, and META REIS, executive assistant to RICHARD MEALAND, head of the company's studio story and writing department.

•

WALTER GOULD, United Artists foreign manager, and EMANUEL SILVERSTONE, foreign department executive, are expected to leave for Continental Europe around the first of March.

•

E. A. WILLIFORD, vice-president of General Aniline and Film Corp., in charge of Ansco, is due in Hollywood from New York.

•

L. J. SCHLAIFER, 20th Century-Fox Central sales manager, left here yesterday for Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago.

•

HARRY GRAHAM, Universal Southern district manager, has returned to Atlanta from Charlotte.

•

F. A. MCDERMOTT, Universal auditor in Atlanta, has returned to that city from Dallas.

•

FRANK RAMSEY, former manager of the Lenox, Hartford, Conn., has been given a medical discharge from the Army.

JOSEPH BERNHARD, general manager of Warner Theatres, returned here yesterday from the Coast.

•

LT. JOHN D. GLASE, son of PAUL E. GLASE, manager of the Embassy and associated Fabian Theatres in Reading, Pa., and ELIZABETH C. JOHNSON were married recently.

•

STEVE PERAKOS, son of PETER PERAKOS, co-owner of the Quittner and Perakos Theatre Circuit, Connecticut, has been promoted to captain in the U. S. Army.

•

EDWARD SCHNITZER, United Artists home office executive, returned here yesterday from a brief Southern business trip.

•

SAM P. GORREL, Republic branch manager in Cleveland, is en route to the West Coast to attend a branch managers' meeting.

•

VICTOR MORRELLI, manager of the Bristol, Bristol, Conn., is recovering from pneumonia at the Bristol Hospital.

•

STEVE EDWARDS, Republic publicity manager, is en route to New York from the Coast.

•

IKE and HARRY KATZ, co-franchise holders of PRC, Atlanta, are in St. Louis.

•

JOHN JENKINS, president of Astor Pictures, Dallas, is visiting Atlanta.

•

L. J. KAUFMAN, Warner Theatres executive, is in Ohio on business.

Lawrence to London To Talk with Rank

Jock Lawrence, Hollywood writer and publicist, who was recently named by J. Arthur Rank as his American public relations representative to handle both publicity and exploitation, is scheduled to leave this week for London to confer with Rank.

Since David Weshner is currently handling public relations for Rank's Eagle-Lion Films in the U. S., Lawrence, in conferences with Rank, will seek to determine the scope of his duties here and will also try to set up some arrangement to facilitate the flow of publicity and advertising from England to this country.

Dr. Sturges Elected Chairman of AAA

Dr. Wesley A. Sturges, a member of the budget committee of the American Arbitration Association, which administers the operation of the motion picture tribunals, has been elected chairman of the AAA, according to an announcement by H. O. King, president. Dr. Sturges is Professor of Law at Yale University.

Kirsch Heads Players

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—Jack Kirsch, president of Allied of Illinois, has been named president of the Players Club, Chicago.

Goldman Appeal Is Set for Thursday

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 5.—The appeal of William Goldman in his alti-trust case against distributors and Warner Theatres is scheduled to come up for hearing in U. S. Circuit Court here on Feb. 8. Goldman said that Wendell Berge, assistant attorney general, was expected to participate as the Government has intervened as 'friend of the court.'

The suit involves Goldman's Erlanger Theatre here, being kept dark, and is the first case of its kind involving first-run situations in Philadelphia. Earlier, the lower court had ruled against Goldman, declaring that there was no proof of a conspiracy on the part of the defendants.

Loew Theatres' Sixth Total $35,056,434

Loew's Theatres sold $35,056,434 of bonds in the Sixth War Loan Drive, the company reveals. Of this amount, theatre sales were $21,167,719, sales to employees were $3,288,715 and corporate purchases were $10,600,000. This is a 15-per-cent increase over the Fifth drive.

Loew's Theatres have sold $136,386,128 in bonds since June, 1942, and in addition, the company has purchased $57,821,500, for a grand total of $194,207,628.

1,450,000 Nightly See 'Gift' Films

Servicemen and servicewomen overseas are now going to free film shows at the rate of 1,450,000 a night, with some 3,500 separate performances, including regular world premieres, it is disclosed by Col. E. L. Munson, Jr., Chief of the Army Pictorial Service.

"The motion picture industry deserves commendation for its cooperation in making this possible," Col. Munson declared here.

USO Celebrates Its Fourth Anniversary

United Service Organization observed its fourth anniversary yesterday with a luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria, attended by many officers of the Army and Navy.

USO-Camp Shows, subsidiary organization for which many of the industry's personnel and stars have toured, did not commence functioning until Fall, 1941.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Showplace of the Nation • Rockefeller Center
"A SONG TO REMEMBER"
PAUL MUNI • MERLE OBERON
Introducing CORNEL WILDE
A Columbia Picture in TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

2nd WEEK • ROXY

EXTRA! AT LAST...REVEALED!
THE UNKNOWN BATTLE
The NEW MARCH OF TIME
A 20th Century-Fox Release

STATE
ON SCREEN
'MUSIC FOR MILLIONS'
MARGARET O'BRIEN
JOSE ITURBI
JIMMY DURANTE
JUNE ALLYSON
IN PERSON
ROCHESTER
EXTRA!
AL TRACE

BING CROSBY
BETTY HUTTON
SONNY TUFTS
In Person
Woody HERMAN
and His Orchestra
ALL-STAR REVUE
"Here Come the Waves"
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett
Raymond Massey
"Woman in the Window"
AN INTERNATIONAL PICTURE
—A RKO RELEASE

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Reagan Meets in K.C., Dallas Next

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 5.—Third of a a series of district sales meetings being conducted by Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, got under way at the Hotel Muehlebach here today with a luncheon for local exhibitors to be held tomorrow.

Attending are: George A. Smith, Western division manager; J. J. Donohue, Central division manager; Ralph C. LiBeau, district manager; branch managers, salesmen and head bookers of St. Louis, Des Moines and Kansas City, and James Castle, district advertising representative.

R. M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director, and Claude Lee, director of public relations, are in the home office group with Reagan. The home office executives will leave on Wednesday for Dallas to inaugurate meetings in the Central division, which will also include sessions in Chicago and Cleveland. Division Manager Donohue will accompany Reagan to the Central division meetings.

Exhibitors at Para.'s Meeting in Denver

DENVER, Feb. 5.—Exhibitors of the Denver territory and newspapermen were guests of Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, at a luncheon at the Brown Palace Hotel over the weekend in conjunction with the company's district meeting.

Among those attending the luncheon were Jack Foster, publisher of the Denver *Rocky Mountain News;* A. De Bernardi, Jr., drama critic, *Denver Post;* S. L. Gillette, president, Intermountain Theatres Association; Robert Garland, Harry Huffman and Harold Rice, Fox Intermountain Theatres; A. P. Archer and Joseph Dekker, Civic Theatres; Fred Zekman, Black Hills Amusement Co., of South Dakota; Dave Cockrill, Denham Theatre, Denver; Fred Knil and Robert Sweeten, Gibralter Enterprises.

Also attending were Hugh Braly, Paramount Denver district manager; branch managers J. T. McBride, Omaha; F. H. Smith, Salt Lake City, and Harry H. Haas, Denver; Robert Blair, district advertising representative, and salesmen and head bookers of Salt Lake City, Omaha and Denver.

New International Division for RCA

A new RCA international division has been formed by RCA to supervise foreign sales and other activities of the company and its subsidiaries outside of the United States, according to Brigadier General David Sarnoff, RCA president.

John G. MacKenty, vice-president and general manager of Radiomarine Corp., has been appointed managing director of the new international division.

Raybond Acquires 17th

Raybond Theatres has acquired the 17th house in its circuit of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut houses in taking over operation of the Strand in Astoria, L. I., from the Levy Brothers. David Weinstock is president of Raybond.

Broadway Grosses Soar, Aided by School Holiday

Aided by a fuel-saving school holiday, New York first-runs are enjoying a week of excellent grosses with little discernible effect felt from the new night "brownout" of theatre marquees.

Outstanding among new arrivals is "The Three Caballeros," which opened at the Globe last Saturday. Drawing record business of $18,000 for Saturday and Sunday, the new Walt Disney film is headed for a terrific $45,000 for the first week, which should top all previous marks at the Globe.

"A Song to Remember" is drawing better business in its second week at Radio City Music Hall than was recorded for the first, which was a big $120,000. With the $76,000 line already crossed, an outstanding $121,000 is expected.

'Woman,' 'Burma' Score

"The Woman in the Window," at the Palace, and "Objective Burma," at the Strand, the latter combined with a stage show featuring Artie Shaw and his band, are scoring splendidly for second weeks. A big $35,000 is expected for the second week of "The Woman in the Window," on the basis of $25,000 recorded for the first four days. The first week's gross was over $43,000 for a new Palace house record at regular admission prices and close to the record set by "North Star" at advanced prices. "Objective Burma" is expected to do a heavy $64,000 for a second week, following the initial week's $70,000.

"Suspect" and "Roughly Speaking," also new arrivals, are doing satisfactorily. "Suspect" is expected to complete its first week at the Criterion with a good $31,500, while "Roughly Speaking" is headed for a moderate $27,000 for its first week at the Hollywood.

Receipts are also excellent at the Capitol, where "The Thin Man Goes Home," combined with a stage bill featuring Frankie Carle and band, registered $50,000 for the first four days of a second week and upwards of $65,000 is expected for the week. "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier" will bow out of the Roxy tonight with a good $76,000 expected for the second week on the basis of $65,000 taken in for the four days ending Sunday night. A prior booking will bring "Hangover Square" and a stage show with Milton Berle into the Roxy tomorrow, although the present occupant could easily remain longer.

The Paramount will conclude a sixth and final week of "Here Come the Waves" tonight, with a big $65,000 expected. "Ministry of Fear," combined with a stage show featuring Johnny Long and band will open at the Paramount tomorrow.

'Kingdom' Still Strong

"The Keys of the Kingdom" is continuing to draw well at the Rivoli, where a good $35,000 is expected for a sixth week on the basis of over $19,000 taken in during the first three days; several additional weeks are assured. "Meet Me in St. Louis" drew heavily in its final six days of a 10th week at the Astor, grossing almost $35,000.

"The Fighting Lady" collected a big $22,500 at the Victoria. "Mr. Emmanuel" is a steady grosser at the Gotham with $13,000 estimated for the fifth week, which is about equal to the fourth week's take. "Destiny" is expected to do a satisfactory $8,500 in its first week at the Rialto; it will hold over. "On Approval" is doing poor business at the Republic with a light $2,500 expected for the second and final week; "The Chicago Kid" will open there Saturday. "The Princess and the Pirate" will open at the Astor Friday; "She Gets Her Man" will open at Loew's State Thursday.

$8,000-$12,000 for B. & K. Stage Shows

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—B. & K.'s Chicago Theatre, leading Midwest combination-policy house, will not cut its talent budget this Summer despite the convention ban. Despite the fact that the house has always reached its business peak during July and August, when a combination of record out-of-town vacationists and conventions boosted its attendance mark, Nate Platt, Chicago booker, is scheduling $8,000 to $12,000 weekly stage attractions, in addition to 'A' films during the summer. The Loop is expecting record business, anyway, from thousands of individual travelers who used to avoid the city during conventions.

20th Asks Dismissal

Twentieth Century-Fox has applied to New York Federal Court for a dismissal of Maude Nugent Jerome's suit against it, which seeks an injunction and damages against the film, "Sweet Rosie O'Grady," claiming it to be a plagiarism of her title and song of the same name. Twentieth-Fox claims plaintiff is not the owner of the copyright on the song, alleging it was sold to Columbia Pictures in 1925.

Blue Television on B. & K. Station Soon

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—The Blue Network's participation in television programs of the Balaban and Katz station, WBKB, will begin late this month or early March, according to Merritt Schoenfeld, Blue executive.

Among programs of local origin to be televised are "The Quiz Kids" and "The Breakfast Club." The Blue's participation in the B. and K. facilities is for experimental purposes and involves no contractual relationship. Blue is also participating in producing shows on DuMont's station WABD, New York, and General Electric's WRGB, Schenectady.

Daily Lists Survive New L. A. Times Cut

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 5.—*The Times* has reduced by one-third its space devoted to theatre listings, due to the paper shortage. Earlier plans to limit publication of listings to three times weekly were abandoned, space economy being accomplished by a reduction in the size of type. Before this reduction was instituted, the *Times* consulted with exhibitors who screen *Times* advertising trailers.

Building Code Will Double Size of New Projection Booths

Projection booths in new theatres in New York State, excluding New York City, will have to be almost 50 per cent larger than those in present theatres, according to new provisions of the building code for theatres and other constructions being promulgated by the State Labor Department's advisory committee.

Present requirements call for booths to be not less than 48 square feet in size for one projection machine; provisions for new construction will call for at least 80 square feet. Booths will have to be at least 10 feet in depth and eight feet in height. Provision of 30 inches clearance between each machine will have to be made where more than one is used.

Consideration of separate sections of the code which apply to new theatre constructions has been completed, according to a spokesman for the advisory committee. The committee is said to be in complete agreement on all new provisions, but it is pointed out that public hearings will be held on the code once the advisory committee completes all of its work.

Meet Feb. 16

The next meeting of the advisory committee will be held here Feb. 16 with indications that it will require about three or four more meetings before consideration of the code is completed. As reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, on Jan. 24, legislation is expected to be introduced shortly in the New York State Legislature, in Albany, to give the new code the full 'teeth' of law and eliminate exemptions of certain types of structures from its provisions.

The industry side of the Labor Department's advisory committee includes Henry Anderson, Paramount; Martin J. Tracey, Century Circuit; Theodore Junge, alternate for Harry Moskowitz, Loew's; Glen H. Humphrey of projectionists Local No. 337.

SPU Charges Strike Provocation Goes on

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—The Screen Players Union today telegraphed the War Labor Board and Department of Labor Conciliator Earl J. Ruddy charging the "employers are proceeding with the usual acts of violation and discrimination" to which SPU attributed last Friday's strike, and requesting the "use of the offices of the WLB to call a meeting in order to eliminate discrimination." The telegram set no time limit.

Production continued normally, meanwhile, with no interruption expected prior to the response by the National Labor Relations Board to appeals from the producers and from the Screen Actors Guild for the reopening of hearings on their overlapping jurisdiction.

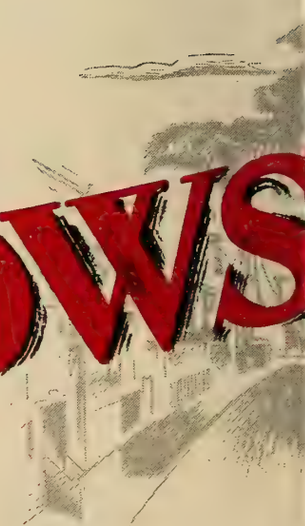
1,100,000 Film-Song Sales

Warners' "Hollywood Canteen" song hit, Cole Porter's "Don't Fence Me In," has set a new sheet-music sales record, reports Harms, Inc., Warner music published. Sales are over 1,100,000 sheets, claimed to be the highest sales for 16 years.

20th

CENTURY-FOX
PROUDLY
PRESENTS
THE OPINIONS
OF THE
TRADE PRESS
ON THE
BOX-OFFICE
IMPORTANCE
OF...
BETTY SMITH'S

A TREE GROWS



RED CROSS WAR FUND WEEK—MARCH 15-21

"Outstanding box-office! Greater impact than the novel!" —*M. P. Daily*

"Sure of big grosses! Imposing box-office stature!" —*Film Daily*

"Most popular novel since 'Gone With The Wind'—absorbing all the way!" —*M. P. Herald*

"One of the fine film dramas of the year!" —*Variety*

"A superlative job! Heart-stirring! Sure-fire!" —*The Independent*

"Top-grade drawing power!" —*Showmen's Trade Review*

"Certain to return tremendous grosses!" —*Hollywood Reporter*

DIRECTED BY ELIA KAZAN · PRODUCED BY LOUIS D. LIGHTON

SCREEN PLAY BY TESS SLESINGER AND FRANK DAVIS

WORLD PREMIERE SOON ROXY, NEW YORK CITY

Loew's Solution to Aid the 'Brownout'

(*Continued from page* 1)

watts of power. A transformer, reflector and glass lens unit is contained in a unit, giving light something similar to flood lighting.

Charles C. Moskowitz, vice-president of Loew's, in charge of Loew theatres in New York, said here that it is not difficult to secure the necessary materials to make the lighting fixtures. The marquees of all Loew's theatres will soon be so equipped.

Albert A. Senft, president of Sterling Sign Co., which services lobbies and marquees at all Loew theatres in this area, also told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that the lighting which can be secured through this method has been proven to illuminate front-of-the-house displays without using more than the electric power required to operate a 60-watt bulb permitted under the WPB edict.

Grants New Trial of Thomas Murray Suit

(*Continued from page* 1)

maining defendants, including Van Nomikos, Milo Theatre Corp., John L. Manta, Capitol Pictures and Henri Elman.

On Jan. 24, a jury verdict awarded Murray, former operator of the Thalia Theatre, damages amounting to $105,000. The plaintiff originally sued for $1,000,000, claiming that the major distributors and competitive theatre interests have forced him out of business.

Lester Murray, attorney and son of the plaintiff, said he will appeal Judge Holly's dismissal verdict on the two major distributors to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals here. Murray has not yet decided what course of action he will take on motion of granting the remaining defendants a new trial.

Parks Enters Exhibition

DALLAS, Feb. 5.—Hiram Parks, former Warner salesman here, has resigned to move to Brownfield where he recently purchased the Rialto and Ritz theatres from Mrs. Earl Jones. Parks also owns the Marine Theatre in Fort Worth, a Spanish language house in Lubbock and a theatre in Grand Falls.

Request Rebuild Permit

CINCINNATI, Feb. 5.—Ernest Realty Co., operating a theatre circuit in Covington, Ky., has applied to the War Production Board for permission to rebuild the 1,000-seat Madison which was recently destroyed there by fire.

EXPORT AGENT

A young Latin-American motion picture executive (33), has lived in most South American countries for many years and who has also been a resident of the U. S. A. for the past four years, will soon make an extensive tour of Latin-America on business and will consider other offers. Firms who desire local a e c es or have something worthwhile to export or sell or research to do will receive proper representation. Excellent contacts with important business and governmental officials. Extensive experience in Latin-America as an exhibitor and in exploitation of films as well as equipment needs. A letter in detail will receive prompt attention. Information will be held in strict confidence.

Box 1552, Motion Picture Daily

U. S. Decree Plea Hits at 'Unreasonable Clearance'

(*Continued from page* 1)

ances which violate the Sherman Act, against which the decree in its present form fails to give adequate temporary relief.

In support of its application, the Department cited the cases where the Arbitration Appeal Board has found clearance granted by the defendants to be unreasonable and has ordered reductions.

"In holding that there should be some clearance between theatres which were not in substantial competition but merely drew some patronage from the same general area," it was explained in this connection, "the Board apparently assumed that entering an award prohibiting a distributor from granting clearance in favor of one theatre over another in the same competitive area, was an unwarranted interference with the distributor's right to license the competing exhibitors on such runs as he may deem necessary to exploit his films properly. Whether this conclusion was compelled by the language of the decree or not, the result has been that the defendants have been expressly allowed to impose clearance between theatres only slightly competitive even though, in such circumstances, there is no public justification whatsoever for contractual arrangements of this character."

'Discriminatory Sequence'

The primary evil of clearance between theatres which are not substantially competitive, the Department argued, "is not that it suppresses competition for patronage, but that it establishes a discriminatory sequence of exhibition which has no relation to the legitimate needs of the distributor or the public. What it does is simply give the theatre enjoying the clearance booking control over the theatre against which it is held.

"We respectfully submit that a provision prohibiting the imposition of any clearance between theatres not in substantial competition with each other should be added to the existing decree."

While a theatre playing films first run at a high admission price might ordinarily be expected to require clearance over a second run charging a lower price, the Court was told, there is no legitimate purpose in granting clearance between theatres which charge the same admission price, whether they draw from precisely the same area, or whether they are 20 miles apart."

"The general problem of unreasonable clearance is inadequately dealt with in the existing Section VIII of the decree," the Department maintained, contending that "an adequate temporary provision must also flatly prohibit the granting of any clearance between theatres charging substantially the same admission price.

"The determination of the maximum length of clearance permissible in competitive situations where admission price differentials exist should be so adjusted that the period of clearance between any two theatres is proportionate to the admission price differential between them if there is to be any public justification of such clearance," it was declared. "This may be accomplished by a prohibition of all clearance in excess of that reasonably related to the maintenance of competition between two or more competing theatres charging different admission prices.

"Apart from these general provisions, specific temporary relief expressly directed against unreasonable clearance arising from distributor affiliation is urgently required. There is no dispute that each of the distributor defendants controls a large circuit of theatres; each licenses films to its own circuit, the circuits owned by the others and theatres competing with them by license agreements which fix the minimum admission prices to be charged by all of the theatres licensed; that the maintenance of those admission prices is tied to run and clearance provisions determining the relative time at which the films licensed become available for exhibition in competing theatres.

Cross-Licensing 'Illegal'

"We submit that such a system of admission price fixing by cross licensing is *prima facie* illegal because it is in effect a means by which affiliated theatre operators, through their distribution affiliates, agree with each other as to the admission prices that should be charged by their various theatres in the competitive areas in which each operates and as to those to be charged by independent theatre operators who compete with these affiliated theatres."

"The persistent use by the consenting defendants, during the pendency of this suit, of clearance provisions as a means of unreasonably restricting the terms on which the theatres may compete in licensing their films, and the inadequacy of the present decree to afford adequate relief against such violations of the Sherman Act are beyond dispute," it concluded. "We respectfully submit that the provisions suggested are the minimum which the court may properly grant if the persons now subjected to the illegal restrictions in question are to be given adequate protection pending the entry of a final decree in this case."

G-R Opens New Theatre

MOBILE, Ala., Feb. 5.—The 1,230-seat Downtown, operated by Giddens and Rester Theatres, has opened here. Ricardo Montiel, who manages the Brookley and Crichton theatres is G-R general manager; Kenneth R. Montiel is manager of the new house.

Two Back to ASN

MONTREAL, Feb. 5.—Flying Officer Tony Hargreaves and Sgt. Howard Hamilton, are the first two Associated Screen News staff members to complete service in the Armed forces.

Lob-Lee Theatres File

HARTFORD, Feb. 5.—Lob-Lee Theatres, Inc., of New Haven has filed a certificate of organization with the Secretary of State here. The following officers have been named: Oscar A. Levy, president; Bernard Levy, treasurer; Lewis Ginsburg, secretary

New Mobile House Opens

MOBILE, Feb. 5.—The Downtown Theatre, owned by Giddens and Rester, had its formal opening here recently. Ricardo Monteil will supervise the house.

Percentage Selling Is Out in Spain

Percentage selling of American films in Spain has been eliminated by a ruling of the Spanish Government, which has decreed that all film transactions must henceforth be on a flat rental basis, it is learned here.

Further, the American industry, already encumbered with many onerous restrictions, special levies and taxes, is finding it difficult to secure film import licenses, which are issued irregularly.

Total yearly Spanish gross for all U. S. companies is estimated at about $3,000,000. However, this is cut by drastic import duties, the costs of dubbing, printing and distribution, and in money lost in converting to dollars.

American producers making films which receive wide acclaim in the Argentine and Mexican markets will receive permanent bonuses from the Spanish Government in the form of permits for exhibition. U. S. film distribution will be based on the number of films annually produced in Spain, and the total number of films allowed in the country cannot exceed one-half of the total Spanish production, which is extremely limited.

Open Injunction Suit Of SOEG Dissidents

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 5.—Superior Judge Harry M. Willis opened hearings today in the suit brought last November by dissident members of the Screen Office Employees Guild for an injunction restraining the union from levying an assessment on the membership to obtain funds for wielding influences in an election. SOEG asserted the funds were used solely to defeat "Proposition 12," but the dissidents claim half the money collected was used to advance the interests of political candidates. The hearing will resume tomorrow.

National Meeting Opens

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 5.—The annual business meetings of National Theatres opened here today, with Charles Skouras presiding. Presidents of the subsidiary companies are on hand for sessions scheduled to continue through Wednesday.

Kesting Leaves Curtis

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 5.—Theodore Kesting, motion picture editor of *The Country Gentleman*, published by Curtis Publishing Co., here, has resigned to become editor of *Sports Afield*, published in Minneapolis.

Harry Weiss to 20th

CLEVELAND, Feb. 5.—Harry Weiss has been appointed resident 20th-Fox exploiteer, succeeding Sid Zins who has returned to free-lance publicity in New York.

AVAILABLE

Executive secretary (male) many years experience all branches theatrical business and in distribution and production of motion pictures in New York and Hollywood.

BOX 345, M. P. DAILY

Ceiling of 60 on Mexican Features

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 5. — Mexico's production this year has been definitely ceilinged at 60 features because of a new, sharp raw stock shortage, by the National Committee on Cinematographic Affairs, which has three members, representing the Government, industry employers, and labor. The average worth of each of these pictures is estimated by the committee at $80,000, the entire 1945 production being calculated at about $4,800,000.

The committee is composed of Fernando Casas Aleman, Subsecretary of the Interior, Jesus Grovas, producer and President of the National Cinematographic Industry Chamber, and Salvador Carrillo, secretary general of the National Cinematographic Industry Workers Union. It spent several days making a survey of the industry, particularly with regard to the equitable proportioning of raw stock to producers this year, and decided to limit supplies of that material to the following producers, per number of pictures they will make this year:

The Schedule

Clasa Films and Filmex, six each; Films Mundiales and Producciones Grovas, five; Producciones Hermanos Rodriguez, four; Raul de Anda, three; Astro Films, Aristas Asociados de Mexico, Cinema, S. A., Calderon Hermanos, Miguel Contreras Torres, Pereda Films, Posa Films, two each; and Aguila Films, Abel Salazar, As Films, Alfonso Sanchez Tello, Cinematografica Guadalajara, Columbus Films, Caricolor, España-Mexico-Argentina, Francisco de P. Carrera, Juan J. Ortega, Mauricio de la Serna, Pedro A. Calderon, Rafael Arzos, Producciones Interamericana, the National Cinematographic Industry Workers Union, the Banca Cinematografico (the industry's own film bank), and Vicente Saiso Piquer, one each.

Competence, integrity, experience and solvency of each producer was considered in allotting the quotas, the Committee said. Only those who have scenarios actually written, approved and ready for production were allowed raw stock, and the rationing was strictly on the basis of what each producer can really do. The committee will charge each producer receiving this stock 65 cents per reel, defray its expenses for control and supervision that it must perform for the distribution of the stock.

Some hope is expressed in industry and official circles that eventual success will attend negotiations to obtain a large quota of stock. Should there be more stock, the committee will readjust its distribution plan of the material, though still on a strict rationing basis.

3 Buy Mono. Program

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5. — The Pitts Circuit, operating 15 houses in Virginia and West Virginia, Herman Rifkin Theatres, with seven houses in Boston, and Royal Amusement Co. in the Hawaiian Islands have bought Monogram's 1944-45 product.

Wilson Acquires 'Hall'

LONDON, Feb. 5. — Morris Wilson, formerly of Grand National Pictures, Ltd., has re-acquired United States distribution rights to "Pastor Hall," originally distributed in the U. S. by United Artists.

Ten Million Feet of Raw Stock in Reserve Pool

(Continued from page 1)

WPB's new definition of the latter. WPB might regard Capra's last active production status before entering service as that of a contractual employe of Warners, rather than an independent producer, it was said.

The new WPB regulations deprive Hal Wallis Prod. of a direct raw stock allocation. While the present Wallis organization meets the qualifications of an independent producer, it completed no production prior to 1945, when the freezing aspects of the new WPB regulations are made applicable. Wallis, therefore, must look to Paramount, rather than to WPB, for raw stock and, should he wish to change to a new distribution outlet, would have to look to the new affiliation for his supply. By contrast, other producers who escaped the freezing period and meet the qualifications of independent producers specified by WPB, can obtain their raw stock allocations direct and take them with them if and when they change distribution affiliations. Falling within the latter category would be such organizations as International Pictures, Lester Cowan Prod., Charles R. Rogers, Selznick's Vanguard, Samuel Goldwyn, Sol Lesser, Walt Disney and many others.

Pickford, Chaplin Affected

Believed to be affected by the freezing provisions because of production inactivity during the 1941-'45 period are Mary Pickford and Charles Chaplin, unless an exception is made in Chaplin's case for the modernized version of "The Gold Rush," only picture delivered by the producer during the base period. An exception would entitle Chaplin to approximately 95 per cent of the stock used in preparation and release printing of 'Gold Rush."

Since the new WPB regulations recognize producers and not distributors as the claimant source for raw stock, and United Artists as an exclusively distributing organization receives no raw stock of its own, Miss Pickford and Chaplin thus could find themselves in the unusual position of having to look to another company for stock should they wish to make a picture during 1945, rather than to the company of which both are substantial owners.

WPB sources disclosed that in addition to the 256,000,000 feet to be allocated to the industry during the current quarter, a reserve raw stock pool has been set up in which there is approximately 10,000,000 feet of stock. This will be used for emergency and special purposes not fully defined yet.

Stanley Adams, head of the WPB's Consumers Durable Goods division, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that the new procedure involving basic stock allocations to producers rather than distributors, did not result from representations made to him by Samuel Goldwyn in Washington recently, although that procedure was advocated by Goldwyn in part. Adams said established WPB policy for more than three years has been recognition of production rather than distribution in all industries with which it deals and that the only exception to that rule with which he was familiar was the past practice with respect to this industry. The established WPB policy, he said, is now being applied to motion pictures.

Three Absent

Three additional members of the new 21-man Industry Advisory Committee, who were unable to attend last week's meeting with Adams here, were identified today. They are: William F. Rodgers of Loew's-M-G-M; John R. Wood of March of Time, and Ted Toddy of Toddy Pictures. Eighteen of the 21 members attended last week's meeting. No substitutes for committee members will be admitted to WPB meetings in the future except in cases of serious illness of a member.

In addition, committee members have been instructed not to hold meetings in New York or elsewhere hereafter without a WPB or other Government representative present and have been cautioned that to do so may involve an anti-trust violation.

N. Y. Salesmen at Work on Demands

(Continued from page 1)

sible affiliation for the new organization. The IATSE is understood to be interested in taking jurisdiction over all salesmen's groups, Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, recently pointing out that the "IA" intends to represent any such group formed.

The next meeting of the New York salesmen's formulating committee is expected to be held next week, at which time it is understood that it will report on a possible affiliation.

ATS Meet Feb. 15

A 'Television Information Please' meeting will be held in the Museum of Modern Art here Thursday evening, Feb. 15 by the American Television Society, at which 400 members and guests are expected. Members representing a cross-section of television have been invited to lead a discussion and stimulate questions pertaining to all aspects of television.

'Teeth' in Chicago's Building Code

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—The City Council has amended the building code to permit the police, fire, health and building departments to close any theatre, or any other building where they find conditions which might menace life or health. Previously, the ordinance permitted summary closing of a building only when specific violations of the building code were found.

Hospital for 'Lab' Worke

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 5.—Studio laboratory workers, Section 2 of the National Cinematographic Industry Workers Union, is erecting a hospital here for its members.

L. and J. to Build

COLUMBUS, Ga., Feb. 5.—Lucas and Jenkins has received bids for the construction of a new theatre in this city. Roy A. Benjamin, Jacksonville, Fla., is the architect.

OPA Seeks 37,000 Financial Reports

Washington, Feb. 5.—Forms to report annual financial returns have been mailed to 37,000 corporations, including film companies, the Office of Price Administration discloses, to give the OPA a continuing picture of financial conditions in the nation.

75 Mexican Houses Grossed $9,185,000

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 6.—Seventy-five theatres here, eight of them first-run, registered a record gross of $9,185,000 last year. This income was derived in a city of nearly 2,000,000 but only 500,000 of whom are theatregoers.

Exhibitors, although pleased by the revenue, explain that these figures are subject to high operating expenses. They hope to convince the municipal government, which is investigating charges that theatre admissions are too high, that they cannot afford to lower the prices because of the high costs. First-run houses, charging 85 cents, are special targets of the investigation which has enlisted the support of several influential Federal Senators and Congressmen.

Mexican producers are supporting the exhibitors, contending that admissions are reasonable since production costs have risen more than 50 per cent in two years. The government is expected to issue a ruling in the case soon.

Mexico City Monthly Gross Is $800,000

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 5. — Theatre business has doubled here since the start of the war, the average monthly gross being $800,000, compared with $400,000 prior to Pearl Harbor. This city has 75 theatres for its population of nearly 2,000,000.

Despite the spending splurge, theatre investors are holding back on building, feeling that 75 theatres are sufficient.

Consolidated, Setay Merge with Republic

(Continued from page 1)

spective identities. Setay owns 40 per cent and Consolidated the remainder of the present Republic company. Merrill Lynch will underwrite the new corporation.

Watch
U. A. releases
bearing
G.C.F.
Presents

Derequisition More Studios in England

LONDON, Feb. 5.—Two more studio stages are now available for derequisitioning, but British governmental film units insist on retaining accommodations such as dressing rooms and cutting rooms. A meeting to seek a remedy for this difficulty has been arranged between executives of the J. Arthur Rank organization and representatives of the Ministry of Information.

One of the studio stages, used as a wartime food store and now derequisitioned, has been found damaged by the weight of Spam, sugar, etc., but the Ministry of Works is authorizing a special priority for reconditioning the establishment.

Korda Occupancy

The wartime occupants of another studio are reluctant to surrender it, claiming that one stage housing heavy machinery cannot be evacuated and that films cannot be made because of the noise from this machinery. However, sound tests conducted in collaboration with Western Electric have demonstrated that this noise does not interfere with sound tracks, so it is likely that Sir Alexander Korda may occupy the studio as soon as equipment is available. The Board of Trade is understood to be willing to grant Korda an import license for American-made prototype machinery.

A general census of re-equipment requirements is still uncompleted, but a meeting of the British Film Producers Association and the equipment makers is expected to be held within a few weeks. Theatres, however, must await low priorities for re-equipment and reconditioning, and it is unlikely that any comprehensive plan along this line will be possible for three or four years. The government insists that the repair of bomb-damaged homes and the building of new ones must come first.

Tax Receipts Increase

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 5.—An increase in the amount of amusement taxes collected by the city is indicated in the report of the city treasurer showing that total receipts for 1944 amounted to $1,493,356. The amount collected exceeded the budget estimate for the year, which was $1,400,000. The city exacts an amusement tax of a cent on each 25 cents of admission, or fraction thereof.

'E' Honor to Holmes

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—Holmes Projector Co., here, has been awarded the Army-Navy 'E' honor emblem. President O. J. Holmes accepted the award from Capt. F. Ceres of the Navy.

MITCHELL MAY, Jr.
CO., INC.
INSURANCE
•
Specializing
in requirements of the
Motion Picture Industry
75 Maiden Lane, New York
510 W. 6th St., Los Angeles

N. Y. Neighborhood Houses Hit by Coal Shortage

(*Continued from page 1*)

direct order, adding that if houses care to operate without heat, the enforcement of the health department laws of 65 decrees of heat would not be placed in effect.

William Brandt yesterday purchased 30 cords of wood to heat his Times Square theatres, the Selwyn, Times Square, Liberty, Apollo, Lyric and Victory. Loew's has been purchasing cord-wood since the beginning of the emergency.

If the situation gets worse it was indicated here yesterday that a new order will be issued closing theatres and requiring the New York Steam Corporation, which furnishes heat for 50 of the largest houses, to cut off service to those theatres. Edwin Salmon, fuel commissioner of New York, stated that nine-tenths of places to be denied coal deliveries in the future, would be places of amusement.

WPB Lifts Embargo on Gas for Theatres

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The War Production Board tonight lifted the three-day embargo on the use of natural or mixed gas by theatres and other places of amusement, imposed in seven states and the District of Columbia last Friday. Officials said that substantial compliance to the order had been noted, and the resulting saving of gas, plus the arrival of warmer weather, made unnecessary any extension of the order.

Buffalo Theatres Are Closed in Emergency

BUFFALO, Feb. 5.—All theatres were closed here today under a blanket emergency order of Mayor Joseph J. Kelly, due to the fuel crisis. The order meant a 24-hour cessation of about 75 per cent of the city's retail trade. There is a three-day supply of coal on hand. Theatre box offices will reopen tomorrow, it is hoped.

All last week schedules were revised to permit an 11 P.M. closing, and midnight shows were eliminated for the duration of the crisis.

Cleveland Theatres Close for a Week

CLEVELAND, Feb. 5.—Theatres shut down here today for a week, along with all places of amusement, department stores, schools, restaurants, and public buildings, to conserve heat and light. Action was taken in response to a proclamation by Mayor Thomas A. Burke, and is subject to weekly revision depending upon the coal situation, transportation facilities and weather conditions.

Kentucky, Indiana Houses Are Closed

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 5.—Several northern Kentucky and Indiana houses have closed, due to the heating gas shortage. A committee conferred today here on a plan for closing all theatres, places of amusement, and stores one day weekly, to conserve fuel. Some 114 local industries are closed with an estimated 13,000 workers idle, as a result of the gas shortage.

Rochester Theatres Close for 4 Days

ROCHESTER, Feb. 5.—All Rochester theatres and those in Monroe County communities, have been closed for four days under an emergency fuel order, affecting all amusement places and non-essential stores, and business.

Five Millions Seen For 'Dimes' Drive

(*Continued from page 1*)

year against $444,000 in 1944, and this total is expected to be swelled by collections made through stores and other outside sources as yet unreported; RKO Theatres collected about $232,000, a substantial increase over 1944's $199,500; $54,000 has been collected by Warner Theatres in Northern New Jersey, against $47,201 a year ago. Century Circuit, New York, during the first seven days of the drive collected $26,118, against $18,000.

Theatres in Puerto Rico have extended collections an additional seven to ten days owing to late arrival of their trailers.

Theatres are urged to return their Greer Garson appeal trailers for salvage to their nearest National Screen Service exchange, and to speed their collection reports.

IATSE Names Kostlan

OMAHA, Feb. 5.—Motion Picture Operators Union local No. 343, IATSE, has again picked Alvin Kostlan of the Brandeis Theatre to head the organization in 1945. Other officers: first vice-president, Vic Morterson; second, Ben Cuttle; treasurer: Baird Loomis; financial secretary, Glen Jordan; business agents, Howard Jackson and Clyde Cooley.

WPB Clarifies Its Lighting Order

(*Continued from page 1*)

interpretations of the 'Brownout' order.

The board announced that the entrance and exit lighting may be continued, but if more lighting is used than is needed for health and safety requirements such excess lighting will be construed as advertising. Lighting is permissible for outside ticket windows so long as only the normal amount of lighting necessary to carry on business is used. The 60-watt limitation on marquee lighting applies regardless of the size of the marquee.

Local 418 Elects

CAMDEN, N. J., Feb. 5.—At a meeting of Local 418, LATSE, projectionists, the following were elected: President, Harry Langfeld; vice-president, Ralph Allen; business agent, Frank Hauss; recording secretary, Leon Cohen; financial secretary, Alex Stein; executive board, Frank Bolton, Irving Dantis, Harry Diamond, Allen Schaffer; trustees, John Murphy, Abe Feldman, Sam Hirsch, and sergeant-at-arms, Frank Schofield.

Torres Marks 25th Year

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 5.—Miguel Contreras Torres, producer of "Simon Bolivar," was honored at a banquet here on his 25th year in films.

Connors Sets 20th Anniversary Plans

(*Continued from page 1*)

silent picture in 1915 was "Life's Shop Window," starring Stuart Holmes. Fox Newsreel came into existence in 1919 and its film libraries have a store of newsreel footage depicting the history of the day and the years between then and now.

The merger with 20th Century productions in 1935 brought Joseph M. Schenck and Darryl F. Zanuck in to head the consolidated companies.

It is also the 25th year of Movietone News, produced under direction of Edmund Reek. Ten years ago March of Time was organized, and with 20th Century-Fox MOT is celebrating its anniversary as well as its affiliation with 20th.

Final details of the birthday celebrations are incomplete, but Connors has named Herman Wobber, Coast division manager, drive leader of the celebration.

Wobber, whose temporary headquarters will be in the home office during the next few months, is now visiting the various exchanges to discuss the occasion.

Wobber's itinerary follows: Yesterday he was in Atlanta; today he will be in New Orleans; tomorrow, Memphis; Feb. 8, Oklahoma City; Feb. 9, Dallas; Feb. 10; Kansas City; Feb. 12, St. Louis; Feb. 13, Indianapolis; Feb. 14, Detroit; Feb. 15, Chicago; Feb. 16, Milwaukee; Feb. 17, Minneapolis; Feb. 19, Des Moines; Feb. 20, Omaha; Feb. 23, Salt Lake City; Feb. 24, Denver; Feb. 27, Portland; March 2, San Francisco; March 5, Los Angeles.

Penn.-Jersey Owners Will Aid Wac Drive

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 5.—Theatres in Southern New Jersey and Delaware will cooperate in a special WAC recruiting campaign this month. A meeting was held between WAC representatives and local distribution representatives of the War Activities Committee to determine the best method of disributing a WAC trailer.

In addition, the distributors are cooperating in the booking of four two-minute trailers made by the Signal Corps urging people to get war jobs. It was suggested that the best method of distribution would be by tacking the subjects onto newsreels. Due to the limited number of prints available, this will be done, but by designated territories only. The first subject went to the Southern New Jersey territory. Pennsylvania and Delaware will be covered later.

Another 'Clean Bill'

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—The police censor board has given the industry a clean bill of health for the sixth consecutive month. During January, the board reviewed 70 films, and made neither rejections or adult classifications.

Bonded Film Storage Corp.
LOWEST RATES
TWICE-A-DAY DELIVERY SERVICE
SAFETY-SECURITY
1600 BROADWAY N.Y.C.
CIRCLE 6-0081-2-3-4
STORAGE & C. A. PROJECTION ROOM FILM EXCHANGE DISTRIBUTION SERVICE

Production Is Off Slightly; 41 Now in Work

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—Production slackened slightly as 10 features went to cutting rooms, and work started on eight others. There were 41 pictures in work, compared to 43 in the previous week. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Finished: "Ten Cents a Dance," "The Fighting Guardsman," "A Thousand and One Nights."

Shooting: "Boston Blackie Booked on Suspicion," "Over 21," "Kiss and Tell" (Sol Siegel).

M-G-M

Shooting: "Yolanda and the Thief," "The Harvey Girls," "Her Highness and the Bellboy," "Weekend at the Waldorf."

Monogram

Finished: "The Radio Murder" (formerly "The Robot Murder").

Started: "The County Fair," with Leo Gorcey, Huntz Hall, Billy Benedict; "Flaming Frontier," with Johnny Mack Brown, Raymond Hatton, Joan Woodbury.

Paramount

Started: "The Well-Groomed Bride," with Ray Milland, Olivia de Havilland, Sonny Tufts; "You Came Along" (Hal Wallis), with Robert Cummings, Lizabeth Scott, Don Defore.

Shooting: "Masquerade in Mexico," "Too Good to Be True."

PRC

Shooting: "Undercover Girl," "Enchanted Forest," "Stranger in the Family" (formerly "Deadline").

RKO Radio

Started: "The Most Dangerous Game," with John Loder, Edgar Barrier, Audrey Long and Russell Wade.

Shooting: "George White's Scandals of 1945," "Man Alive," "Those Endearing Young Charms," "The Spanish Main," "Invisible Army."

Republic

Finished: "New Faces of 1945," "Desperadoes of Dakota."

Started: "The Amazing Mr. M," with Joseph Schildkraut, Eugene Pallette and Billie Burke.

Shooting: "Bells of Rosarita."

20th Century-Fox

Finished: "Colonel Effingham's Raid," "A Bell for Adano."

Shooting: "Caribbean Mystery," "Two-Faced Quilligan," "The Dolly Sisters," "State Fair," "Captain Eddie."

United Artists

Finished: "Guest Wife" (Skirball-Manning).

Shooting: "Paris — Underground" (Bennett); "Captain Kidd" (Bogeaus).

Universal

Finished: "Invitation to Death."

Started: "Strange Confession," with Lon Chaney, Brenda Joyce and J. Carrol Naish.

Shooting: "The Naughty Nineties," "Lady on a Train," "That's the Spirit," "A Night in Paradise."

Warners

Started: "Too Young to Know," with Joan Leslie, Robert Hutton, Dolores Moran and Arthur Shields.

Shooting: "This Love of Ours," "Mildred Pierce," "Three Strangers."

Independent

Shooting: "Ten Little Indians" (Popular Pictures, Inc.).

Review

"See My Lawyer"

(Universal)

Hollywood, Feb. 5.

FLANKED by vaudeville and floorshow acts given plenty of footage in which to do their stuff, Olsen and Johnson stampede through this comedy with characteristic disregard of everything but the business of getting laughs, and they get quite a few of them during their periods of presence in the picture, which are fewer and shorter than is good for the whole of the enterprise. When they are off the screen the picture settles down into routine farce played well enough, but differently, by picture regulars whose names make quite a roster for lobby or marquee. As it stands, a medley of divertisements rather than an entity of entertainment, it gives fair account of its 67 minutes.

Supporting the comedians are Grace McDonald, Alan Curtis, Noah Beery, Jr., Franklin Pangborn, Edward S. Brophy, Richard Benedict, Lee Patrick, Gus Schilling, and others, in the story proper. Set into the picture, much of which takes place in a night club, are the King Cole Trio, the Four Teens, Yvette, Hudson Wonders, the Christianis, Six Willys, the Rogers Adagio Trio, and Carmen Amaya and her company. These specialties make their separate appeals to interest, most of them effective enough for the time allotted them.

Seven song numbers, three of them by Milton Rosen and Everett Carter, are utilized in the proceedings, with "Take It Away," sung by Miss McDonald and company, the standout. Production is by Edmund L. Hartman, from a screenplay by himself and Stanley Davis, based on the George Abbott stage production of the same name. Direction is by Eddie Cline. All of these craftsmen combine their talents to fabricate a whole that is less impressive than some of its parts.

Running time, 67 minutes. "G."* Release date, not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"G" denotes general classification.

FCC Budget Cut, but Activity Unchanged

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The House Appropriations Committee today approved the appropriation of $5,005,400 for operation of the Federal Communications Commission in 1945-46, a decrease of $1,306,943 from the current fund, but juggled the figures so as to provide an additional $726,000 for the FCC's regular work.

This was accomplished by cutting down the appropriation for FCC national Defense activities which are gradually being curtailed, and transferring part of the saving to radio-control functions to take care of an anticipated increase in standard and FM applications.

The same bill also carried $920,934 for operation of the national archives, a cut of $150,406 from this year's appropriation.

Legion Classifies Seven More Films

The Legion of Decency this week classified in Class A-I: Republic's "The Great Stagecoach Robbery" and Monogram's "They Shall Have Faith." In Class A-II are: Republic's "Chicago Kid," Universal's "Frisco Sal," PRC's "The Kid Sister," RKO's "What a Blonde" and Columbia's "Youth on Trial."

TBA to Get Award

The Veteran Wireless Operators Association will present the Marconi Memorial Plaque to Television Broadcasters Association, at a dinner on Feb. 17, at the Hotel Astor here, it was reported by William J. McGonigle, president of the VWOA.

2 Red Cross Pledges Sent to Theatres

The national committee for the industry's Red Cross War Fund Week, Mar. 15-21, has sent two special drive pledges to exhibitors as an added stimulus in enlisting their aid for the campaign. One pledge is a card already stamped and addressed to the theatre's exchange area exhibitor chairman which only requires the manager's signature. The second pledge is retained by the manager as a "reminder of the biggest job we have to do."

This is the first time the War Activities Committee has supplied exhibitors with two pledges on a drive.

Ohio Red Cross Lunch

CLEVELAND, Feb. 5.—A local industry Red Cross Luncheon is scheduled to be held Monday, Feb. 26, at the Statler Hotel, with N. Peter Rathvon, industry Red Cross chairman, and William Scully as guest speakers. Joe Krenitz is making arrangements.

Will Rebuild Trace

PORT GIBSON, Miss., Feb. 5.—Plans have been announced for the rebuilding of the Trace Theatre which was destroyed by fire last December.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Feb. 5

MICHEL KRAIKE has been signed by Columbia to a seven-year contract. His next production for that studio will be "I Love a Bandleader." . . . Arthur T. Horman has been assigned by Universal to develop and produce his original comedy, "The Runaround." . . . Helen Pender has been added to the cast of the current Warner production, "Too Young to Know." . . . 20th Century-Fox has selected Martha Stewart, nightclub dancer for one of the top roles in "Three Little Girls in Blue."

•

Julie Gibson has had her Paramount contract renewed. . . . Vernon Keays has been assigned by Columbia to direct "Rhythm Roundup," third in a series of Western musicals being produced this season by Colbert Clark. . . . Richard Loo has been selected for the role of a Japanese officer in RKO's "First Man into Tokyo." . . . Robert Middlemass has replaced J. Edward Bromberg in the cast of 20th Century-Fox's "The Dolly Sisters." . . . Leigh Jason will direct "Song of Broadway", which Burt Kelly is slated to produce for Columbia.

•

Billy De Wolfe has been cast for the comedy lead in Paramount's "Our Hearts Were Growing Up," which Danny Dare will produce. . . . Marvin Schenck, Eastern talent executive for M-G-M, is visiting the Culver City studio. . . . Steve Fisher is writing the screenplay for RKO's "Deadlier than the Male." . . . Don Costello has been signed for the forthcoming Pine-Thomas production, "Follow that Woman."

•

The publicity firm of George Glass and Associates has been retained by William Cagney to line up exploitation angles in connection with the campaign for Cagney's "Blood on the Sun," soon to be released by United Artists. The deal also calls for the new publicity firm to devise a long range public relations program for the Cagney company.

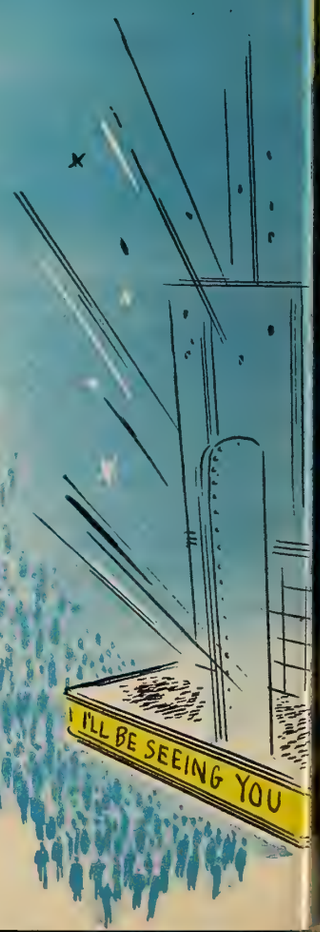
•

Virginia Grey has been signed for the top featured role in Universal's "Men in Her Diary", which is to star Jon Hall, Louise Allbritton and Peggy Ryan. . . . Reinhold Schunzel has been selected for a role in 20th Century-Fox's forthcoming production, "Dragonwyck." . . . Virginia O'Brien is the latest to join the all-star cast of M-G-M's "Ziegfeld Follies."

RKO RADIO PICTURES, Inc.
ST. LOUIS TRADE SHOWING
OF
"THE BODY SNATCHER"
FRIDAY, FEB. 9, at 1:00 P.M.
S'RENCO PROJECTION ROOM, 3143 OLIVE ST., ST. LOUIS, MO.

The Beginning . . .

of a triumphant boxoffice career! Selznick International's heart-touching romance sets the success pattern for the nation's boxoffices in its record-breaking openings in San Diego, Los Angeles (three theatres, simultaneously) and Minneapolis!



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ARL LESERMAN, UNITED ARTISTS CORP.
29 SEVENTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y.

L BE SEEING YOU IS ONE OF GREATEST BOXOFFICE ATTRACTIONS IN HISTORY THIS THEATRE.
54 PEOPLE CLAMORED FOR ADMISSION MANY OF THEM WAITING IN LOBBIES AND OUTSIDE THIS
UR THOUSAND SEAT THEATRE UNDER ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS. FAVORABLE PRESS NOTICES
ND SPLENDID AUDIENCE REACTION BOTH OVERSHADOWED BY TREMENDOUS ENTHUSIASTIC DEMAND OF
TICKET BUYERS. SELZNICK INTERNATIONAL PICTURES AND UNITED ARTISTS ARE ALL TO BE WARMLY CONGRAT-
ULATED. YOU HAVE A GREAT BOXOFFICE HIT ON YOUR HANDS. PERSONAL REGARDS.

JOHN J. FRIEDL . MINNESOTA AMUSEMENT CO.

Thanks — To a Great Showman!

SELZNICK INTERNATIONAL presents

GINGER ROGERS
JOSEPH COTTEN
SHIRLEY TEMPLE

"I'LL BE SEEING YOU"

Directed by WILLIAM DIETERLE • Produced by DORE SCHARY
Screen play by Marion Parsonnet • From a story by Charles Martin

RELEASED THRU UNITED ARTISTS

BULLETIN!

RUSSIANS 30 MILES TO BERLIN

ALLIES 305 MILES TO BERLIN

WARNERS 25 DAYS TO "HOTEL BERLIN"

JACK L. WARNER
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

SIGN THAT PLEDGE CARD! RED CROSS DRIVE—MARCH 15-21

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 27 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1945 | TEN CENTS

Raw Stock for Foreign Films Being Sought

WPB Seeks Solution, Avoiding Discrimination

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The War Production Board is endeavoring now to formulate arrangements by which British and other foreign producers may obtain raw stock here for release prints of their pictures which have been set for American distribution, it was learned today.

Unless special provision is made for British and other producers to obtain raw stock direct, indications are that foreign product might be effectively barred from this market throughout 1945. The drastically reduced raw stock supply expected to prevail throughout most of the year, together with the smaller allocations of stock to American companies, make it extremely unlikely that the latter would

(*Continued on page* 14)

Stock Cut for Other Groups

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—Cuts in raw stock comparable to those announced last week for the feature and newsreel branches of the film industry were in sight today for producers of industrial and advertising films following meetings between War Production Board officials and industry advisory committees representing those fields.

No decision has been reached as to

(*Continued on page* 14)

Disney's Quarterly Net Is $391,000

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—Net income of Walt Disney Productions for 13 weeks ended Dec. 30 was $391,000, before income taxes and subject to fiscal year-end adjustments, according to a report to the stockholders in their annual meeting here today. This compares with $139,000 for the corresponding period the year before.

Net current and working assets were increased by $392,991 during the quarter, resulting from a $386,523 in-

(*Continued on page* 18)

Field Grosses In January Beat All 1944

Box office receipts at some 140 first-run theatres in key cities spurted in January following the seasonal pre-Christmas recession and attained heights well in advance of January, 1944, according to a tabulation of MOTION PICTURE DAILY field correspondents' reports. Weekly averages per house, consistently better than in any month during the year preceding, ranged from $16,826 to $20,765.

The latter figure is a two-year record, nosing slightly ahead of the week ending Jan. 7-8, 1944, which had stood unsurpassed during the twelve months following. Highest

(*Continued on page* 14)

UA Will Dub 5 to 7 Films in Spanish

United Artists will dub from five to seven of its current feature programs in Spanish, and has already started on David O. Selznick's "Since You Went Away", nearing completion. M-G-M's dubbing facilities here will be used for some of the films.

Others scheduled are: David Loew's "Hold Autumn in Your Hand," Hunt Stromberg's "Guest in the House,"

(*Continued on page* 14)

City Denies Coal to 24 Film Theatres

Edwin A. Salmon, New York City fuel administrator, disclosed yesterday that 24 motion picture houses and four legitimate theatres had applied for coal, and were denied deliveries. New York is just beginning to feel the effect of the freight embargo, Salmon stated, but the Pennsylvania Railroad disclosed that substantial supplies of anthracite were arriving.

7th Loan, Mid-May; Commend Pinanski

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The Seventh War Loan will probably get under way in mid-May, with theatres and the motion picture industry again participating importantly, led by Samuel Pinanski of M. and P. Theatres, Boston, newly appointed industry drive chairman. Specific dates for the drive, the total sales quota and other details will be disclosed here later this month, following a general conference between officials of the Treasury's War

Samuel Pinanski

(*Continued on page* 7)

High Frequency Video 5 Years After War: Fly

The prediction that commercial television will move up to the higher frequencies within five years after the war was voiced here yesterday by James Lawrence Fly, former chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, in commenting upon the new FCC frequency allocations released last month, which continues regular television in lower frequencies for the time being. Fly and Ralph B. Austrian, executive vice-president of the RKO Television Corp., were guest speakers at a luncheon of the Television Press Club at the Hotel Sheraton here.

Fly said tremendous achievements are ahead for television in channels

(*Continued on page* 7)

SPU Plans to File Conspiracy Charge

Hollywood, Feb. 6.—Following conferences with assistant U.S. Attorney James M. Carter, Screen Players Union executives said today that the organization will file charges of "criminal conspiracy" against the producers and the Screen Actors Guild. The Union also sent the National Labor Relations Board a telegram asserting SAG is coercing extra players to join that organization.

Decree Change Would Take in 8 Distributors

Gov't Seeks Amendment On Clearance for All

The Government's attempt to have the industry consent decree amended so as to eliminate clearance between theatres charging the same admission price is being extended to apply as well to the non-decree companies, Universal, Columbia and United Artists.

This became apparent yesterday with the disclosure that the three non-decree companies, as well as the five decree signatory companies, have been served in the Government's new Federal court action against clearance and the control of

(*Continued on page* 18)

Buying Rush Follows Cut

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—Announcement of the new reduced raw stock allocations to producers has resulted in a surge of product sales activity in all local exchanges. Exhibitors, eager to secure as much of a backlog of products as possible, are signing up not only for new pictures but, in some cases, are also buying up pic-

(*Continued on page* 14)

Film Classics Buying Two More Exchanges

Film Classics is negotiating for acquisition of two additional branches, at present operated by franchise holders. The company owns the branch in New York, and has 21 'outside' exchanges, L. E. Goldhammer, vice-president and general sales manager, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here yesterday.

Goldhammer, who recently returned

(*Continued on page* 15)

Reviewed Today

Reviews of "Crime, Inc." and "Sheriff of Cimarron" appear on page 15.

Personal Mention

J. ROBERT RUBIN, general counsel and vice-president of M-G-M, will leave Phoenix, Arizona, within a week for the Coast.

•

WOLFE COHEN, Warner sales manager for Oceania, South America and the Far East, will leave the Coast Friday for Mexico, Panama and Australia following studio conferences.

•

LEE SEPTEMBRE and VERA RICHARDSON, Columbia field exploiteer and member of the Washington exchange, respectively, have married.

•

COL. MELVIN GILLETTE, Army Signal Corps photographic division, has ended a furlough here and is en route to a war zone.

•

BEN GOETZ, managing director of M-G-M's British studios, will leave Hollywood for New York on Tuesday.

•

SAM HOROWITZ, Vanguard Midwestern sales manager, is in New York from Chicago for conferences with NEIL AGNEW.

•

IRVING WORMSER, Film Classics' Eastern sales manager, will return here today from the Southern and Eastern territories.

•

FRED JACK, United Artists Southern division manager, has returned to Atlanta from a busines trip to Jacksonville and Miami, Fla.

•

RHODA MAGID of Warner Theatres field sueprvisor's department, has married SGT. PHIL ROBINSON, home on leave from Iran.

•

E. K. O'SHEA, Eastern sales manager of M-G-M, will be back at his desk today after a week's illness.

•

C. K. STERN, assistant Loew treasurer, is vacationing with MRS. STERN in Atlantic City.

•

ROBERT MOCHRIE, RKO Radio sales manager, will be in Chicago for a Red Cross Drive meeting Feb. 23.

•

E. L. WALTON, Republic assistant general sales manager, has returned to New York from the Coast.

•

MARVIN SCHENCK, Eastern talent head of M-G-M, will leave the Coast Friday for New York.

•

SIR ALEXANDER KORDA will leave the Coast Feb. 13 for New York and will proceed to England.

•

C. J. SCOLLARD, Paramount home office executive, has returned to New York from Los Angeles.

•

M. E. MOREY, Monogram executive, has left New York for Washington.

•

ALFRED HITCHCOCK is in New York from the Coast.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, Feb. 6

THEY want further clarification here in Hollywood of the new WPB directive governing the allocation and disposal of raw stock. While the order goes far in establishing the four walls within which the industry must now conform, there is also a feeling afloat that all of the answers are not yet in.

The basis for this immediate reaction, in a way, ties to the conditions bearing on the official limitation now placed on release prints. WPB declares that limit is to be 285 prints per picture. But, at once, it amends its own declared ceiling by pointing out appeals may be made if prints reach an exhaustion point before earning possibilities are realized.

Out of this arises the speculation if appeals or modifications may prove in order under a set of conditions which might not hit daylight pending more detailed examination as to the facts. The speculation, hopefully, embraces that occasionally productive piece of business known widely as the extenuating circumstance.

■

From the viewpoint of the independent producer, the reaction is one of signal victory. This resides in the reversal of the earlier approach for the new approach which establishes the manufacturer (producer) as the entity to whom the raw materials of manufacture now are to go. As a result, there are those who feel their business future hereafter will take on an entirely new coloration. Here is why they think so:

An independent producer, until now under the old agreement, had to draw upon the distributor's quota for film with which to make the product that he (the producer) thereafter delivered to the distributor. Theoretically, at least, this sort of circumstance could have had its effect on the business relationships between the producer, and the terms he sought in his releasing deal, and the distributor, and the terms he might have agreed to give the producer.

The independent, consequently, has been proceeding under the impression he has not been as free an agent as he felt he had the right to be.

■

All of this could make a difference, as perhaps this incident may point up:

One important producer, having made his first deal with a national distributor who supplied the raw stock, is holding back on a renewal despite the fact a second deal had been practically signatured. He is holding back because he will now get his film on his own representations without the need to turn to his distributor. He feels, therefore, that his trading position in relationship to a renewal, if he embarks upon one, has undergone a significant change in his behalf.

■

One of the most interesting angles of the reorganized setup has to do with the industry-wide "freeze" as of 1944, which Stanley Adams has advised MOTION PICTURE DAILY is to prevail. As head of the Consumers' Durable Goods division of the WPB, he ought to know.

The regulations do not take into account the fate of those producers who had not completed a picture from 1941 to the end of 1944 or to new companies formed after January 1 of this year. This can only mean an effective restraint on new enterprise, by Government order. In turn, this can only mean a constriction in the competitive aspects of the industry.

In normal times, this would not be possible and, it appears axiomatic to assume, would not be legal. In war times, the state of affairs is different, of course. But already there has been heard —vaguely and with no assurance as to final validity—the scattered speculation if such a sweeping move as this can hold up even as a war-period regulation.

■

For example, a current situation now confronts a production enterprise which was not in existence in the 1941-44 period. Concerned in this case is a property representing six handsome figures. Plans are in progress for its filming, but the producer has no raw stock upon which to draw.

The distributor through whom he is contracted to release is in no position to provide it, moreover. What does this producer now do? Walk away from his releasing deal for a new one with another distributor who can supply the film? Or remain on the inactive list?

No one in this column's path, thus far at any rate, has an answer.

■

Still another interesting slant is the approach of one executive who knows the ways of production and also of distribution. He believes the limitation of 285 prints per attraction is an excellent development. On this reasoning:

When prints are splashed around liberally, it permits his sales manager to fill quick dates and thereby effect a fast playoff. For rapid liquidation, this is O.K. For volume, it is N.G., as against better terms and better grosses, distributor-wise, if the selling were more careful.

This man recognizes less haste means slower return, more bookkeeping and probably greater selling cost. But his conviction is these factors are relatively unimportant alongside the opportunity for bigger returns on a less hurried selling basis. Therefore, he feels the limitation on prints, which will mean more care and more economy in filling the physical requirements of distribution, is a step in a desired direction.

■

These observations touch off quick impressions of what the raw stock changeover may mean. No doubt, there will be others as the directive is explored the further and more definite conclusions may be drawn.

■ ■

May 3 here:

"The real reason (for Jimmy Grainger's second visit here in three weeks) was something else. . . . It concerns two, and maybe three, big production deals with extremely important directors. These picture makers would be on their own. Herb Yates would finance. Republic, of course, would release."

First of the steps then hinted: Republic's deal with Frank Borzage. It represents a large-sized step forward for that company, and the first of others on the way.

While the full intention is to maintain Republic in the mass-market position which it now enjoys, Yates is after larger objectives. Example: Twelve to fourteen big attractions each year. They'll cost plenty of money, each by itself. But that's precisely what Yates intends.

Silverstein Recalled By OWI for Europe

Maurice (Red) Silverstein, who recently was named Caribbean manager for Universal, has been recalled to active duty by the Office of War Information's overseas motion picture bureau.

Silverstein will leave shortly for the European area, where he will receive his assignment.

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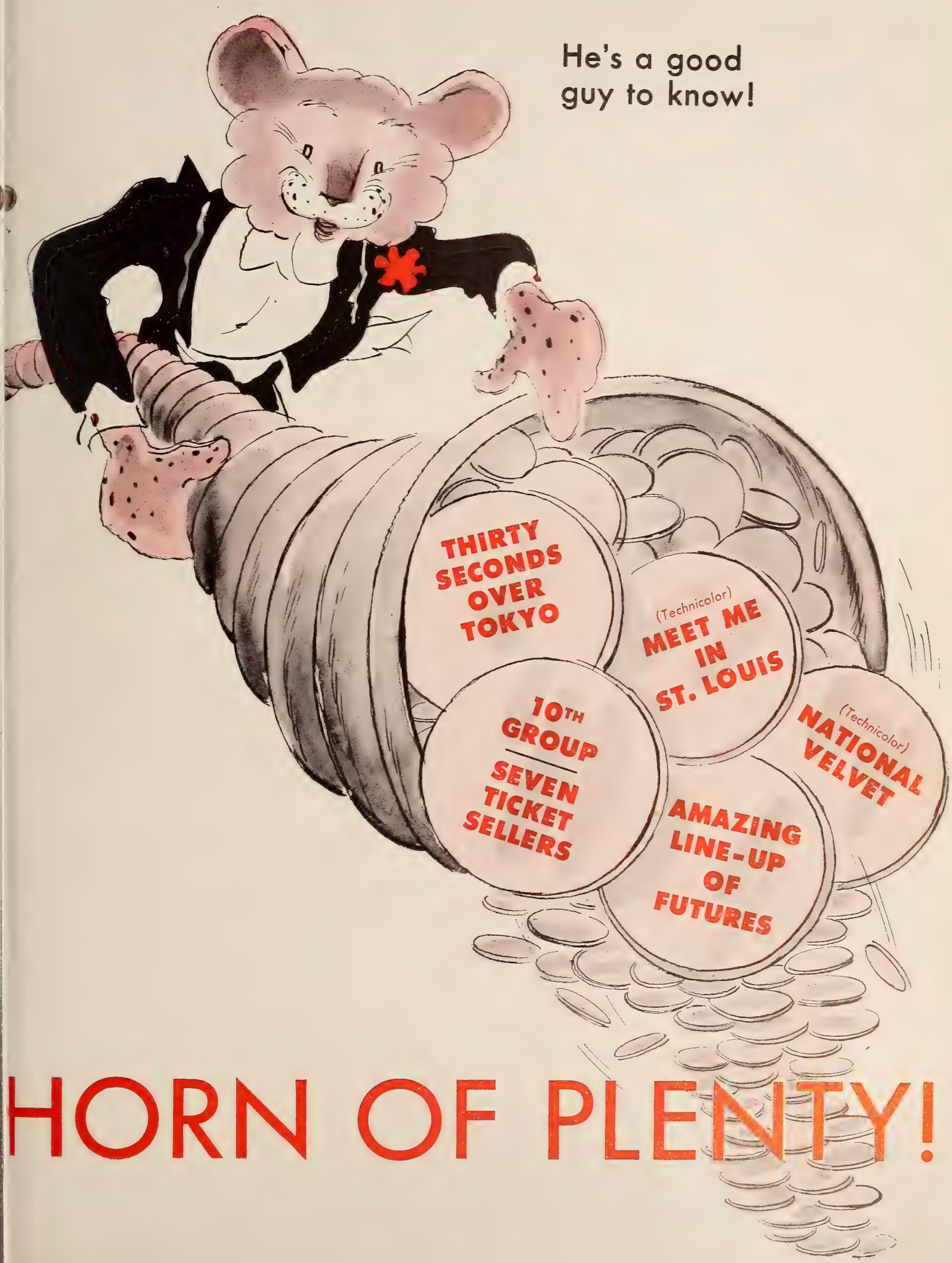
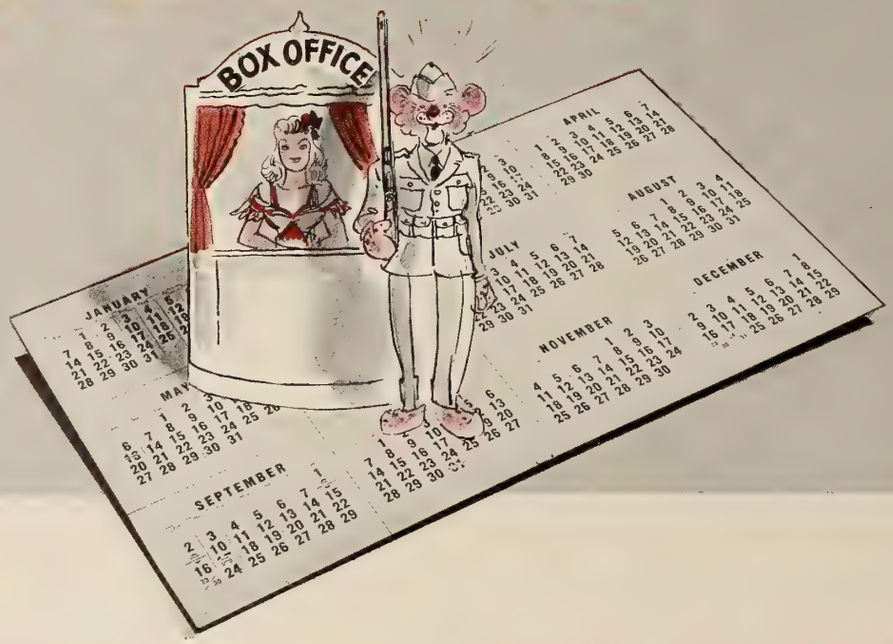

He's a good guy to know!
THIRTY SECONDS OVER TOKYO
(Technicolor) MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS
10TH GROUP
SEVEN TICKET SELLERS
(Technicolor) NATIONAL VELVET
AMAZING LINE-UP OF FUTURES
HORN OF PLENTY!

ON GUARD!

EVERY WEEK OF 1945!



For instance... LEO'S NEWEST GROUP IS CLICKING MERRILY!

Bill and Myrna— your money-earner!

OH JOY! POWELL AND LOY! IN "THIN MAN GOES HOME"!

Coast to Coast, what a welcome back they're getting. It's the most exciting and delighting they've ever made. Together again for the fans!

Rialto Theatre sold its thrills!

"MAIN STREET AFTER DARK" "REAL SLEEPER," SAYS VARIETY!

Rialto Theatre on Broadway proves it's a natural for showmanship. True story of today's Girl Gangsters is action-packed.

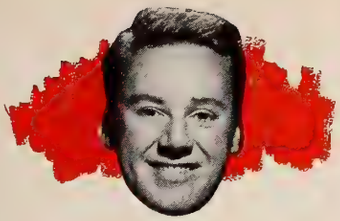
Margaret O'Brien *Jose Iturbi*

Jimmy Durante *June Allyson*

5 BIG WEEKS AT CAPITOL FOR "MUSIC FOR MILLIONS"

The producer of "2 Girls And A Sailor" has done it again. A real heart-story of people you love with Stars and Music and thrilling Romance!

Red Cross War Fund Week—March 15-21



What a man is handsome Van!

Remember the name. It's Gloria Grahame.

Wally Beery never fails the fans!

Laurel-Hardy Laughs sell seats!

America's Idol! VAN JOHNSON IN "BETWEEN TWO WOMEN"!

The World Premiere in Washington, D. C. brought the dames in droves. Every gal in your town is waiting for Van in this very romantic story.

"BLONDE FEVER" GETS "HUSKY BIZ" IN PHILLY, SAYS VARIETY!

This is right in the modern groove. What every wife will want to know about Wolf technique. And they'll want the husbands to see it too!

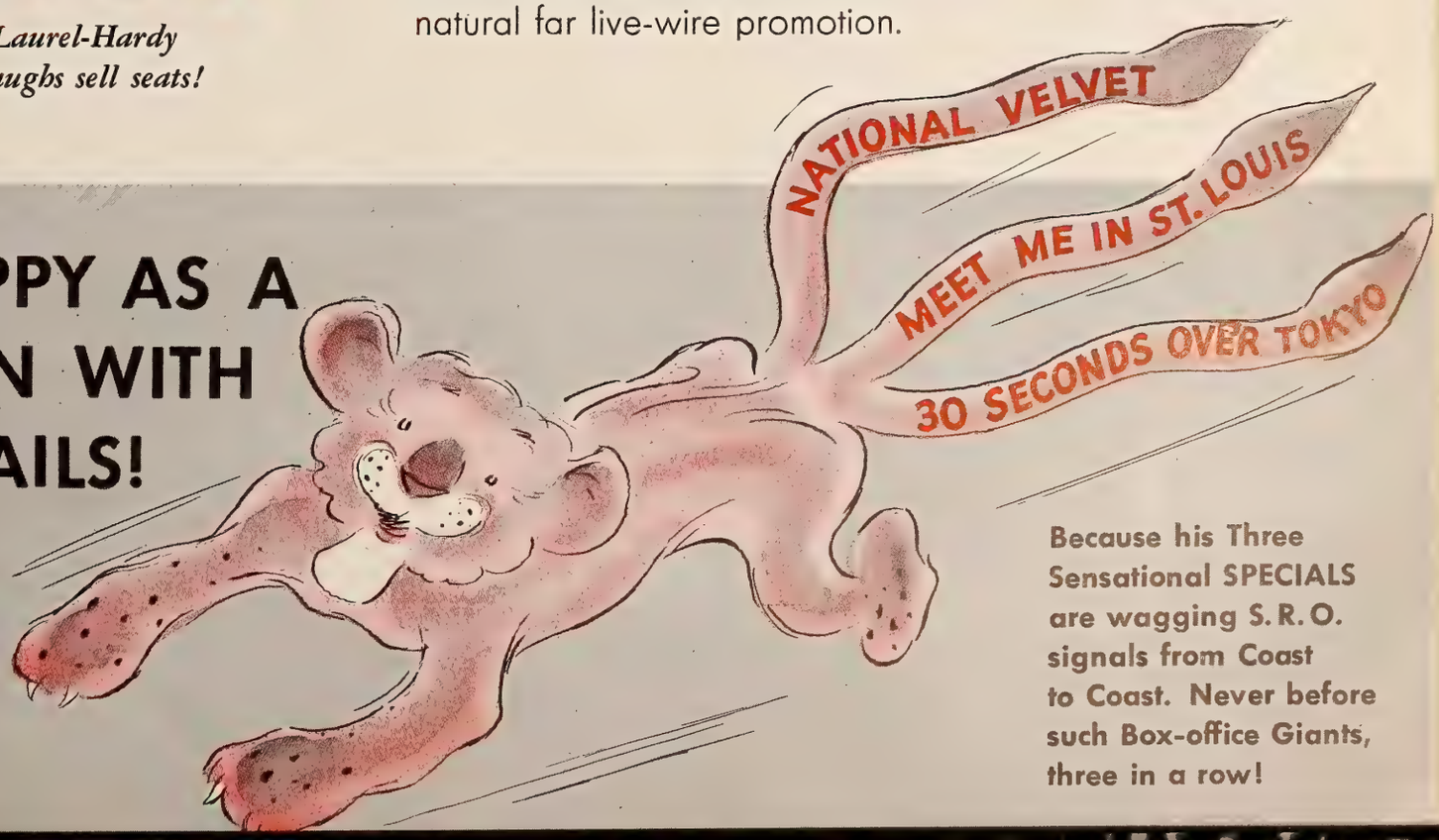
WALLY BEERY REPEATS WITH SOCKO "THIS MAN'S NAVY"

It will get "Salute To The Marines" grosses because it's rowdy, rousing and uproarious. Watch the World Premiere engagement at Akron. A socko show for showmen!

FOR LAUGHS! LAUREL & HARDY IN "NOTHING BUT TROUBLE"

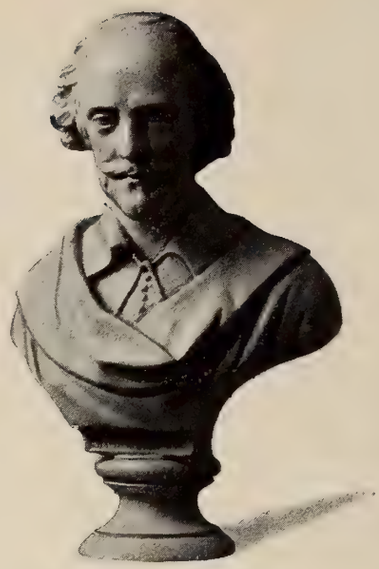
Never was the American public so in need of relaxing comedy! Sell the laughs! It's their most riotous film and a natural far live-wire promotion.

HAPPY AS A LION WITH 3 TAILS!



Because his Three Sensational SPECIALS are wagging S. R. O. signals from Coast to Coast. Never before such Box-office Giants, three in a row!

"Shakespeare and me!"



BOX-OFFICE POEM:

"Let Leo's friendly sprockets Put dollars in your pockets!"

Coming!

THRILL OF A ROMANCE
In Technicolor...Van Johnson, Esther Williams, Lauritz Melchior, Tommy Dorsey and his Orchestra, Frances Gifford

WEEKEND AT THE WALDORF
Ginger Rogers, Lana Turner, Walter Pidgeon, Van Johnson, Xavier Cugat

THE VALLEY OF DECISION
Greer Garson, Gregory Peck, Donald Crisp, Lionel Barrymore

ANCHORS AWEIGH
In Technicolor . . . Frank Sinatra, Kathryn Grayson, Gene Kelly, Jose Iturbi

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY
George Sanders, Hurd Hatfield, Donna Reed

HOLD HIGH THE TORCH
In Technicolor . . . Elizabeth Taylor, Frank Morgan and Lassie

Coming!

WITHOUT LOVE
Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn, Lucille Ball

FOR OUR VINES HAVE TENDER GRAPES
Edward G. Robinson, Margaret O'Brien, James Craig, Jackie Jenkins

ZIEGFELD FOLLIES
In Technicolor . . . Fred Astaire, Lucille Ball, Lucille Bremer, Fanny Brice, Judy Garland, Lena Horne, Gene Kelly, James Melton, Victor Moore, William Powell, Red Skelton, Esther Williams

KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY
Lana Turner, Laraine Day, Susan Peters

SON OF LASSIE
In Technicolor...Peter Lawford, Donald Crisp, Lassie and Laddie

THE CLOCK
Judy Garland, Robert Walker

1924 1945
21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP
MGM

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

British Plan 10-Year Video Development

Washington, Feb. 6.—British film interests are planning a large-scale color television development to be carried out over 10-years period, with full development of color film within the first four years, trade reports reaching the Department of Commerce from London indicate.

Commercial high-definition, large-screen television will be reached in six years, with large-screen television in color developed by the eighth year, it is said.

7th Loan, Mid-May; Commend Pinanski

(*Continued from page 1*)

Finance Division and industrial and other leaders.

It is probable that the Seventh will run one month, with all 'E' bond purchases in June accredited to it, as in previous campaigns.

Meanwhile, Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau today complimented the film industry, through its War Activities Committee, on the selection of Pinanski as chairman of the industry's drive participation in the forthcoming campaign.

"Your war loan chairmen have invariably done an excellent job," Morgenthau told the WAC. He complimented the previous industry drive chairmen, Si Fabian, New York; L. C. Griffith, Oklahoma City; Charles Skouras; Los Angeles; Robert J. O'Donnell, of Dallas, and Harry Brandt, New York—"for their willingness to concentrate their efforts, during successive War Loans, on helping the Government collect for Victory," said a WAC statement.

Rodner Appointed Charity Trustee

Harold Rodner, executive of Warner Bros., has been appointed trustee of the Association of Jewish Children, an organization formed to take care of underprivileged and handicapped youngsters who come under the supervision of the Federation of Jewish Charities. I. Howard Lehman is president of the association, and H. M. Warner, president of Warner Bros., is honorary trustee.

Rodner has also served for a number of years as executive vice-president of the Will Rogers Memorial Fund and its hospital at Saranac.

Three Join Blue Web

Neil Mulhern, for eight years an account executive for CBS in Detroit, has joined the Blue Network as its Detroit salesman, and Millard Banks and Ted Oberfelder have been added to the staff of the web's promotion department here.

'Dry' in Chattanooga

CHATTANOOGA, Feb. 6.—M-G-M's "Keep Your Powder Dry," will have its world premiere here on Feb. 21 at the Tivoli Theatre. Exteriors for the picture were photographed in this city.

High Frequency Video 5 Years After War: Fly

(*Continued from page 1*)

above 500 megacycles, where experiments with broader frequency bands and full color will lead to setting television broadcasting in the higher frequencies permanently.

Improvements in television transmission on present frequencies, Fly said, make possible good telecasting on the present six megacycle bands with the use of larger screens, such as have been developed by RCA.

The future of radio lies in the manufacturers being able to provide one instrument for the home which can supply the best in standard broadcasting, television, frequency modulation and even facsimile broadcasting, in Fly's opinion.

Austrian outlined a plan for building television circulation, calling upon manufacturers of television receivers and transmitters to undertake the sponsorship of television programs on films to assure the public of a steady flow of program material on receivers sold. The cost of programs, which RKO Television Corp. is prepared to make through the facilities of RKO Radio and Pathe News, would be paid for by maufacturers and their retail distributors.

Television Press Club guests at yesterday's luncheon also included John F. Royal, NBC; Gilbert Seldes, CBS; Robert D. Swezey, Mutual; Dr. Allen B. DuMont, DuMont Television; J. R. Poppele, Television Broadcasters Association; Tom Hutchinson, RKO Television; Al Scheer, Philco; John McKay, King Features Syndidate; George Lewis, Federal Telephone; Paul Carlson, and others.

The new TPC board of governors announced at the luncheon includes: Stanley Kempner, Louis Winner, Elizabeth Forsling, Cliff Denton, Tom Kennedy, Ben Kaufman, Patricia Murray, Wanda Marvin, M. H. Shapiro and Bruce Robertson. TPC, offering membership to press representatives in television, is being formally incorporated, it was reported at the meeting.

Scophony Is Planning Subscription Video

Scophony contemplates a subscription television service, supplying subscribers with a Scophony home television receiver capable of showing a picture 24-by-20 inches in size, upon payment of an installation charge plus a weekly fee of $2.25 which would enable subscribers to amortize the cost of a set in about two years, according to Arthur Levey, president of Scophony Corp. of America. Paramount and 20th Century-Fox hold a 50 per cent interest in Scophony.

"The Scophony subscription television plan envisages an audience of at least 1,000,000 within a few years after the war," Levey said.

U.S. Reels, French to Exchange Footage

The five U. S. newsreels have concluded an agreement with the French government for mutual exchange of material.

The agreement, already in effect, and to cover the next three months, provides that French domestic newsreel footage be made available to the five newsreels, in turn for which the newsreels will make available to the French a lavender print of the United Newsreel, which is a compilation of the American reels.

The short-term agreement is expected to be extended for as long as the war continues, according to newsreel sources here. The reels, of course, will continue to have cameramen with the Allied Armies in France, and elsewhere.

Govt. Brief in Schine Suit Is Due Tomorrow

BUFFALO, Feb. 6.—A replying brief by the Department of Justice in the Schine anti-trust suit is scheduled to be filed here Thursday. In filing its original brief, the Government was 18 days late, the brief having been submitted to Federal Judge John Knight Jan. 2, instead of Dec. 15. The Schine brief was filed Jan. 24 with the court, and the Government's reply brief was then due in 15 days.

Next move in the suit will be arguments on both briefs, late this month, on a date to be agreed upon between Judge Knight, Schine and the Government. After the arguments, the court will make its decision on the trial evidence and supporting briefs.

Canada Prepares for Postwar Television

MONTREAL, Feb. 6.—With the object of insuring that Canadians will get everything in the war-developed electronics field, including television and frequency modulation, the Canadian Radio Technical Planning Board has been formed by organizations requiring radio frequencies for service to the public. R. M. Brophy, Montreal, is president of the board, which has opened offices in Toronto.

"This is an all-for-one proposition," Brophy said. Nobody on the board represents a specific company. Organizations requiring radio frequencies have become partners in a non-profit venture. Engineers and scientists in the industry will give up their time without charge for the benefit of organizations serving the Canadian populace.

"The Board has six special committees or panels," Brophy continued, each with its specific engineering objective. All are comprised of leaders in electronics and radio engineering. Studies of the committees, and the recommendations which the board will make to the Canadian government, will have much to do with Canada obtaining an appropriate place on the air waves of the future," Brophy explained.

Ted Tuttle Injured

HARTFORD, Feb. 6.—Ted Tuttle, manager of the Astor Theatre, East Hartford, is in fair condition at St. Francis Hospital here after suffering possible leg and arm fractures in a fall from the window of his office early this morning.

Mayer's Pacific Tour Nearly Over

HONOLULU, Feb. 6.—Arthur Mayer is now making his second and last tour of the Mariana Islands for the Red Cross. The WAC executive and New York theatre operator is expected back here within a week, and will then leave for the U. S. where he will play an active part in the industry's next Red Cross Week, from March 15 to 21.

Cleveland Drive Lunch At Statler Feb. 26

CLEVELAND, Feb. 6.—An industry Red Cross luncheon will be held here Feb. 26 at the Statler Hotel, with N. Peter Rathvon, industry chairman; William Scully and Arthur Mayer as guest speakers. This will be Mayer's first appearance in the United States since he left for the Pacific for the Red Cross some months ago. It is also reported that Mayer's early return to this country (he was scheduled to stay six months in the Pacific) was also occasioned by a planned participation in the forthcoming Seventh War Loan Drive in late May. Joe Krenitz, Universal branch manager here and War Activities distributor chairman, will be in charge of arrangements for the Red Cross meeting here.

Ingrid Bergman in Red Cross Trailer

Ingrid Bergman has completed an industry 'Red Cross War Fund Week' trailer which will be shown in theatres during the week of March 15.

Produced at RKO's studio in Hollywood, and directed by Jacques Tourneur, the trailer highlights the 1945 Red Cross Drive in its relation to the fighting fronts. National Screen Service will handle distribution.

Wanger Aids Red Cross

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6. — Walter Wanger, president of Walter Wanger Productions, Inc., has been named chairman of the studios' Red Cross Drive, March 15-21.

Radio to Get Plan For Own 'Academy'

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—Buck Harris, public relations consultant, will leave here for New York by plane on Friday to place tentative plans for a radio academy of arts and sciences, to make annual awards for radio's outstanding performers and achievements, before network heads and representatives of radio guilds and crafts.

Watch
U. A. releases
bearing
G.C.F.
Presents

THE "BIG T
MEETING AT

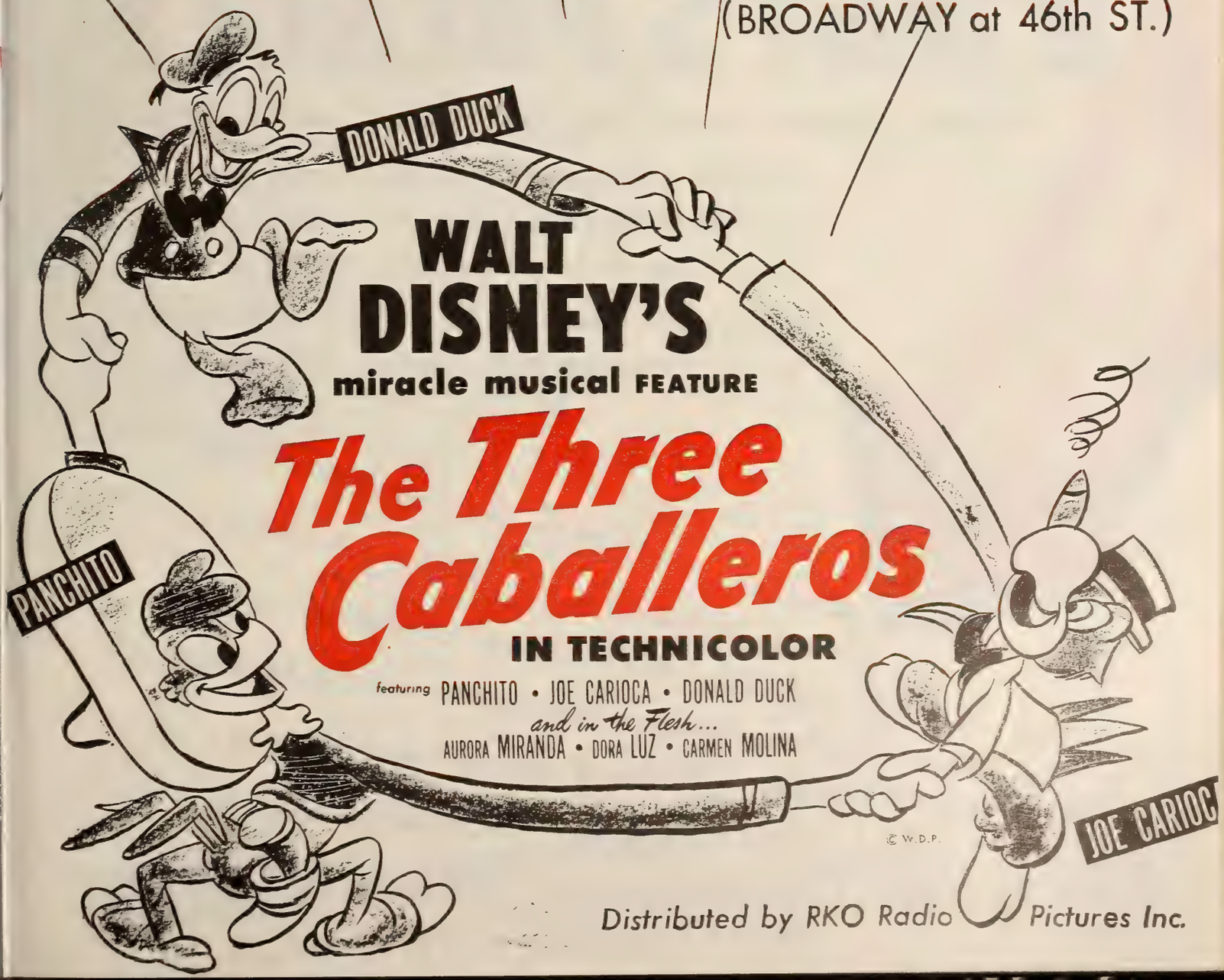
AND MAKING BOX-OFFICE HISTORY

---- First two days set new house record by a fabulous 38% above former record figures!

SIGN THAT PLEDGE CARD! RED CROSS DRIVE — MARCH 15-21

HREE" ARE THE GLOBE

(BROADWAY at 46th ST.)



Distributed by RKO Radio Pictures Inc.

THESE ADS STARTED IT...

THE BIGGEST BUSINESS IN HISTORY OF B'WAY'S PALACE!

despite blizzard, snow, slush and coldest spell in years!

First week so sensational that the figures sound FANTASTIC! Second week MILES ahead of any other holdover in house's history! Third week now looks like BIGGEST on record!

Set your own campaign on the sensational "WARNING" key that startled New York — and watch the money roll in!

THESE REVIEWS CLINCHED IT...

"Terrific thriller... going to be the talk of the town."—Wanda Hale, N. Y. Daily News

"A humdinger of a mystery melodrama"—T. M. P., N.Y. Times

"Enormously suspenseful...really slick."—Rose Pelswick, N. Y. Journal-American

"Among season's very superior murder stories."—Alton Cook, N.Y. World-Telegram

"Taut with suspense...builds until spectator is quivering."—Eileen Creelman, N.Y. Sun

"Good...packed with suspense."—Bert McCord, N. Y. Herald-Tribune

"Slick thriller...a treat for all concerned."—Irene Thirer, N. Y. Post

"One of the masterpieces of its kind."—J. T. M., PM

WARNING!
So that all may enjoy its terrific surprise climax . . . NO ONE WILL BE SEATED DURING THE LAST FIVE MINUTES OF THIS PICTURE. Please do not disclose the ending to your friends.

WARNING!
So that all may enjoy its terrific surprise climax . . . NO ONE WILL BE SEATED DURING THE LAST FIVE MINUTES OF THIS PICTURE...Please do not disclose the ending to your friends.

Her sensuous charm had involved men before . . . but even she had not planned on murder!

INTERNATIONAL PICTURES, INC. Presents
EDWARD G. ROBINSON
and JOAN BENNETT in
'The WOMAN IN THE WINDOW'
with RAYMOND MASSEY and EDMOND BREON · DAN DURYEA
Directed by FRITZ LANG · A NUNNALLY JOHNSON Production
Released by RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.

GOOD ENTERTAINMENT IS INTERNATIONAL!

EXTRA! 'This is America' Series 'NEW AMERICANS'

NOW DOORS OPEN at 9 A.M.
MIDNIGHT SHOW EVERY NIGHT
RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th ST.

WARNING!
So that all may enjoy its terrific surprise climax NO ONE WILL BE SEATED DURING THE LAST FIVE MINUTES OF "THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW" starring Edward G. Robinson and Joan Bennett now playing at the RKO PALACE B'way and 47th Street.

INTERNATIONAL PICTURES, Inc. present
EDWARD G. ROBINSON JOAN BENNETT in
THE SCREEN'S SUPREME ADVENTURE IN SUSPENSE!
"The Woman in the Window"
with RAYMOND MASSEY
and EDMOND BREON · DAN DURYEA · Directed by FRITZ LANG
A NUNNALLY JOHNSON Production · Released by RKO RADIO PICTURES, Inc.

GOOD ENTERTAINMENT IS INTERNATIONAL!

EXTRA! 'This is America' Series 'NEW AMERICANS'

Starts TODAY at 9 A.M.
MIDNIGHT SHOW EVERY NIGHT
RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th ST.

GOOD ENTERTAINMENT
INTERNATIONAL PICTURES, INC.
IS INTERNATIONAL

SIGN THAT PLEDGE CARD!
RED CROSS DRIVE — MARCH 15-21

Fitzgibbons at Helm Of Canada Variety

TORONTO, Feb. 6.—President J. J. Fitzgibbons of Famous Players Canadian Corp. has been elected chief barker, *pro tem*, of the Variety Tent of Toronto at a meeting of the organization committee which has been authorized to apply for a charter for the first branch in Canada of Variety Clubs of America. The committee of 11 representatives of all branches of the industry named Paul L. Nathanson assistant chief barker.

Other officers include: Oscar R. Hanson, secretary; Ben Okun, treasurer, and directors Ben Freedman, president of the Ontario Council of Independents; Gordon Lightstone, Paramount; William P. Covert, international vice-president of the IATSE; Ernest Rawley of the Royal Alexandra Theatre, and N. Taylor.

Colleagues at Odeon Entertain Masters

TORONTO, Feb. 6.—Haskell M. Masters was guest of honor at a luncheon tendered by executives of Odeon Theatres of Canada following his resignation as vice-president and managing director of the Odeon circuit and president of Empire-Universal Films. In behalf of former associates, T. J. Bragg, vice-president of General Theatre Corp., presented Masters with a crystal set and silver tray.

Paul L. Nathanson, president of Canadian Odeon, was unable to be present, having gone to Hollywood on business.

Pepper Resumes Job

KINGSPORT, Tenn., Feb. 6.—L. J. Pepper, after two years of service with the Army, has resumed as city manager of Kingsul Theatres. Robert Neal, Pepper's substitute, becomes Wilby-Kincey manager in Bristol.

Ontario Exhibitors Pick Ben Freedman

TORONTO, Feb. 6.—At the annual meeting of the Ontario council, Independent Exhibitors of Canada, attended by 32 exhibitors, John Grierson, commissioner of the National Film Board, Ottawa, outlined the board's postwar plans generally.

Ben Freedman of Port Credit was re-elected president, with Bruce McLeod of the Fox Theatre, Kitchener, elected vice-president. Others elected were: treasurer, Harry Lester, Toronto; secretary, H. L. Romberg, Metro Theatre, Toronto; public relations, Garson Solway, Toronto; directors, Lou Davidson, Herman Bennett and Max Starkman, Toronto.

L. & P. Plans New House

LA SALLE, Ill., Feb. 6.—L. and P. Theatres plan a 1,200-seat theatre here.

Little Competition For US in Portugal

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. — United States motion pictures occupy a dominant place on the Portuguese market, and it is believed that competition from European sources will not be strong for some time to come, the film division of the U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce reports here, based on information received from its attaches abroad. Domestic production is small, and no expansion of the industry is contemplated at present, it was said.

Audience preferences in general are similar to those of Brazil. Of particular interest are scenes portraying life in Brazil or bearing on the relationship between Brazil and the United States. Major productions connected with episodes or periods of American history in their larger or symbolic aspects have interest and may serve important purposes. Comedies, even the homespun and slapstick, are appreciated.

Pictures dealing with the intricacies of United States domestic policies, gangster films, and treatments of limited topical interest are not recommended for the Portuguese market.

Price Ceilings for Mexico City Houses

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 6.—Mexico City's government is presently working on theatre admission ceilings, expected to cover first-runs, as the result of numerous complaints that the 85-cent tariff is excessive.

The ceilings are expected to be invoked soon, with the government conferring with exhibitors and public representatives before they are instituted.

Augusta Theatre Burns

AUGUSTA, GA., Feb. 6.—The Dreamland Theatre, in the downtown section, has been razed by fire. Damage was unestimated officially but firemen believe the loss will be heavy. The theatre is owned by Augusta Amusement Co., part of Georgia Theatres. The property was owned by Homer Edenfield, one of Georgia's oldest showmen.

Shirley Kay to Alberti

Shirley Kay has joined the Jules Alberti Agency, here, as director of public relations and sales promotion, it was announced yesterday by Jules Alberti, president. Miss Kay was formerly with Monogram Pictures. Some of the agency's clients are: Constance Bennett, Elsa Maxwell, Gregory Ratoff, Jim Ameche, Fay Wray, Edgar Ansel Mowrer and John Baker.

Powell Promotes 'Sweet'

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—Dick Powell and Mike Mazurki, featured in RKO's "Murder, My Sweet," will present a 15-minute stage act in conjunction with each opening of that film in key cities. The film will have its premiere in St. Louis Feb. 21 and will open at the Palace here on the following day.

General Release of 'Bell'

First popular-priced engagements of "For Whom the Bell Tolls" have been set by Paramount to open during the week of Washington's birthday in 60 theatres in 54 cities.

• PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD • PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD • PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD •

Who
is the whole nation's most popular movie actress?

Who
is the whole nation's most popular movie actor?

What
is the nation's picture of the year?

TO FIND OUT...

DR. GEORGE GALLUP'S AUDIENCE RESEARCH, INC.

POLLS THE AMERICAN PUBLIC

FOR PHOTOPLAY!

Starting in 1944, Photoplay's Gold Medal Award—the oldest annual award in the industry—will go each year to the American Public's choices.

The same scientific methods will be used which have enabled Dr. Gallup to predict the winner in five presidential elections as well as scores of others.

Will the Public confirm the critics' choice?

Will the Public confirm the box-office records?

Will the Public confirm the many individual polls of editors, special reader groups, and the industry itself?

See Photoplay for March for the final results.

• PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD • PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD • PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD •

"THE BIG SHOW-OFF"

means

A BIG PAY-OFF

at your

BOX-OFFICE

starring

ARTHUR LAKE · DALE EVANS

with

LIONEL STANDER • GEORGE MEEKER

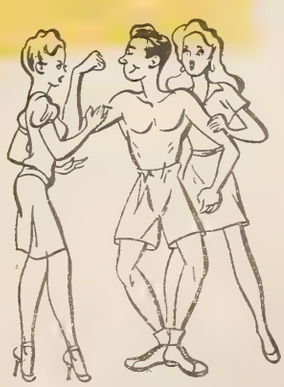
PAUL HURST • MARJORIE MANNERS

and

ANSON WEEKS And His Orchestra

HOWARD BRETHERTON, Director • Original Screen Play by Leslie Vadnay and Richard Weil

Produced by Sydney M. Williams



A REPUBLIC PICTURE

Raw Stock for Foreign Films Being Sought

(Continued from page 1)

feel free to apportion even a minor part of their limited stock to commercially unproved foreign product. To do so, American companies would have to take their already limited supplies of raw stock from their own production and distribution organizations, it is pointed out.

No provision has been made yet for any foreign producer to obtain raw stock here for American distribution of his product. However, Stanley Adams, head of WPB's Consumers Durable Goods division, said today that the problem is under consideration now and an answer may be available within a week or two.

"We have no intention of discriminating against foreign producers," it was stated.

Apply for Quota

Presumably, foreign producers such as J. Arthur Rank of London, for example, will be required to apply to WPB for a raw stock quota and, if they are able to qualify under the regulations to be set up, it would be granted them. In order to qualify for a quota, it is believed probable such producers would have to show that their pictures had been distributed here during the period from 1941 to 1945 and their quota would be based on a percentage of the stock consumed for release prints for such product. Under the freezing provisions of WPB's new regulations applicable to American producers, it is regarded as highly unlikely that any foreign producer who was not represented by product released in this market prior to 1945 could qualify for a quota.

The severity of the raw stock cut is illustrated in a comparison of the footage consumed by the American industry in 1941 and the footage expected to be available this year on the basis of the first quarter allocation of 258,000,000 feet. The industry consumed approximately 1,900,000,000 feet of film per year prior to rationing, whereas this year's possible available supply is 1,024,000,000 feet, a reduction of 876,000,000 feet in a three-year period.

UA Will Dub 5 to 7 Films in Spanish

(Continued from page 1)

Selznick's "I'll Be Seeing You," and Edward Small's "Brewster's Millions." Two others to be dubbed have not been determined.

In addition, UA will shortly start dubbing Charles Chaplin's "The Great Dictator" in French, having been assured by the Office of War Information that raw stock will be available.

Stern, Dee Buy Stevens

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—Richard L. Stern, formerly of Balaban and Katz, and P. J. Dee, president of Alliance Theatres, here, became two of the principal stockholders in the Stevens Hotel which was bought for $7,500,000 by the Hilton Chain from Steve Healy, local subway contractor.

Field Grosses in January Higher than Any in 1944

(Continued from page 1)

week in 1943, ending May 14-15, had attained only $18,967.

After the terrific opening week last month, the averages dropped down slightly—to $17,995 and $16,826—and then began to climb again, with $17,069 recorded in the third week and $17,123 in the fourth. This trend, in general, was paralleled during January, 1944, but with the average running from $1,000 to $2,000 lighter.

Some 15 films in January ran ahead of the established box-office averages at the theatres in 15 key cities. "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" was the leader during the first two weeks, followed closely by "The Princess and the Pirate," "Hollywood Canteen" and "Winged Victory." "To Have and Have Not" took the lead the next week, with runner-up positions occupied by "And Now Tomorrow," "The Woman in the Window," "Hollywood Canteen" and "Winged Victory." As the month drew to a close, "Meet Me in St. Louis" grossed its way to the front but was given strong competition by "The Keys of the Kingdom," "Here Come the Waves," "To Have and Have Not" and "The Woman in the Window."

Other films rolling up good receipts in January were: "A Song to Remember," "The House of Frankenstein," "The Suspect," "Together Again," "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier," "Can't Help Singing," "The Thin Man Goes Home," "Experiment Perilous," "Kismet," "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay," "Mrs. Parkington," "One Body Too Many," "Guest in the House" and "Carolina Blues."

Composite key box-office reports for 1945, to date, compared with the corresponding weeks of 1944, follow:

1945 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre	1944 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 5-6	136	2,828,300	20,796	Jan. 7-8	117	2,417,700	20,664
Jan. 12-13	133	2,393,400	17,995	Jan. 14-15	134	2,040,700	15,229
Jan. 19-20	136	2,289,400	16,826	Jan. 21-22	149	2,311,400	15,513
Jan. 26-27	149	2,543,400	17,069	Jan. 28-29	147	2,365,200	16,090
Feb. 2-3	148	2,534,300	17,123	Feb. 4-5	153	2,512,200	16,419

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Mono. Franchisers Discuss Raw Stock

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—Preliminary plans to help the company get by under the new raw stock reductions were discussed at Monogram's Midwest meeting at the Blackstone Hotel, here, yesterday, conducted by Steve Broidy, vice-president and general manager. "It is too early to say how we will operate with available prints under the new order, but we will do the best we can to serve our customers," Broidy told MOTION PICTURE DAILY. Monogram's current quota raw stock allotment was cut nearly half-a-million feet, from the 8,170,000 allotted in the last quarter of 1944, to 7,697,920 for the first quarter of this year.

It remained apparent that some Monogram national release dates will be set back, including that of "Dillinger," originally set for Feb. 17, and "G.I. Honeymoon," scheduled for March 3.

Broidy to Hollywood

Broidy attended the WPB Industry Advisory Committee raw stock meeting in Washington last Thursday and explained the proceedings to the meeting here. He left for Hollywood after the meeting to analyze Monogram's raw stock problems with production heads, and revise future release dates.

Harry Thomas, Eastern sales manager, remained here after the meeting to discuss new release dates in this area of Monogram's backlog of 13 films, with Irving Mandel, local franchise holder, and Ben Isenberg, sales manager. Others who attended were Sol Francis, Omaha district manager; Ed Spier, Des Moines; Mike Comer, Omaha; Grover McDonald, Oklahoma City; Carl Harthill, Indianapolis, and Barney Rosenthal, St. Louis.

Stock Cut Brings Chi. Buying Rush

(Continued from page 1)

tures of last season's list omitted from their previous booking schedules.

Chief development yesterday was the product agreement finally reached between Allied of Illinois' buying-booking circuit, which controls some 70 theatres, and Universal. W. W. Weinshanker, Universal's sales manager here, reveals that all Allied houses are now under contract for the new seasons' product, and it was indicated that the end of the Allied-'U' deadlock will bring many of last season's unplayed films to the circuit's members. 'U' and Allied have been at odds for over a year, due to some required percentage picture deals.

Balaban and Katz circuit has arranged for appointments this week with most of the distributor district heads to discuss deals. Bill Baker, Republic's Midwest head, started negotiations today. It was indicated in local exchanges that fewer available prints will force alternate local area release schedules on coming product. The condition will result in extended publicity campaigns, particularly in situations involving 'A' product, it was said.

Fox-West Coast Pays $300,000 for Two

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 6.—Fox-West Coast has purchased the Mission at San Jose for a reported $200,000, and the California at Bakersfield for a price declared to be in the neighborhood of $100,000. Previously, both theatres were operated under lease by the circuit.

Stock Cut for Other Groups

(Continued from page 1)

the allocations for industrial and advertising pictures, but both committees were told that they may expect substantial cuts from previous allotments in line with reductions made in raw stock for features and newsreels.

It was indicated that the same system of percentage bases for allocations that was adopted for feature producers-distributors will be applied to these films, based on consumption in 1944.

Because almost all industrial films and theatrical screen advertising now being produced is directly concerned with some phase of the war effort, committee members urged that no attempt be made to base raw stock allocations on the basis of comparative value of the pictures.

'Orientation' Course

The two committees were recently set up to cooperate with the WPB in handling the problem of distributing the short supply of raw stock in a manner equitable to all users, and were given an 'orientation' course designed to acquaint them with the task of the Board and the many problems involved.

Membership of the committees follows: industrial film producers: James L. Baker, Mode-Art Pictures, Pittsburgh; Frank Balkin, Chicago Film Laboratory, Chicago; Bill Betts, Photo and Sound, Inc., San Francisco; F. O. Calvin, Calvin Co., Kansas City; Earl Carpenter, Escar Motion Picture Service, Cleveland; Joseph Defrenes and Co., Philadelphia; Burton W. Depue, Burton Holmes Films, Chicago; Jamison Handy, Jam Handy Co., Detroit; Hugh Jamieson, Jamieson Film Co., Dallas; Edward J. Lamm, Pathescope Co., New York; Arthur H. Loucks, Loucks and Norlin Studios, New York; Robert C. McKean, Carvel Films, New York; R. H. Ray, Ray-Bell Films, St. Paul; Roland Reed, Roland Reed Productions, Culver City, Calif.

Also: I. R. Rehm, Atlas Educational Film Co., Oak Park, Ill.; Frederick K. Rockett, Frederick K. Rockett Co., Hollywood; Frank K. Speidell, Audio Productions, New York; Robert B. Strickland, Strickland Film Co., Atlanta; Norman E. Wilding, Wilding Pictures, Chicago; Raphael G. Wolff, Raphael G. Wolff Studios, Hollywood, and Harold E. Wondsel, Sound Masters, New York.

Advertising Producers

Advertising film producers include: J. Don Alexander, Alexander Film Co., Colorado Springs; Martin Gottlieb, Welgot Trailer Service, New York; W. Hardy Hendren, Jr., United Film Service, Kansas City; Burton B. Jerret, Iowa News Flashes, Des Moines; William Johnson, Motion Picture Advertising Service Co., New Orleans; Abe C. Karski, Motion Picture Service Co., San Francisco; R. H. Ray, Ray-Bell Films, St. Paul; Robert B. Strickland, Strickland Film Co., Atlanta, and W. Ernest Wood, Alpha Film Laboratories, Baltimore.

Burnette to Columbia

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—Columbia has signed Smiley Burnette to star with Charles Starrett in eight films annually for three years.

Film Classics Buying Two More Exchanges

(*Continued from page* 1)

here from a three-weeks' tour of the West and Middle West, declared that "the trend for reissues of top 'A' pictures is tremendous." He said that Samuel Goldwyn's "Wuthering Heights" was doing as well as any new film.

Other deals are pending for the acquisition from independent producers of additional films, Goldhammer said. To date, Film Classics has picked up nine of the 31 Goldwyn pictures which it acquired for $1,500,000.

Members of the newly-elected executive committee of Film Classics' franchise holders recently formed in St. Louis, are due to arrive here today for meetings pertaining to company policy, after which they will confer with Film Classics' executives and, possibly, Samuel Goldwyn representatives here. Film Classics distributes Goldwyn reissues.

Executive Committee

Executive committee consists of Al Dezel, Detroit, chairman; J. F. White, Jr., Charlotte, secretary-treasurer; Bert Sterns, Pittsburgh; Arthur Lockwood, Boston; Joseph Wolf, Indianapolis, and Sam Wheeler, Washington.

At the recent meeting in St. Louis, the committee discussed the print situation, establishment of national release dates on the Goldwyn reissues, and "pooling of certain activities for economy and the procurement of supplies."

John L. Franconi, Dallas, originated the St. Louis meeting, which was also supported by John Mangham, Atlanta franchise holder.

Beauty Being Added To 'Pirate' Opening

Sam Goldwyn will use show girls, models and ballet dancers in the staff of usherettes; cashiers and assistant managers of the Astor, here, when he opens "The Princess and the Pirate" on Friday. Beauty experts will be employed to make up the girls, and two cosmeticians will be on hand at all times to repair 'damage.'

Girls will be given a luncheon by Goldwyn tomorrow at the Astor Hotel.

4 MGM B'way Bookings

M-G-M has set four pictures for Broadway premieres, with opening dates depending on current runs of each theatre's present occupant. Pictures set are: "Nothing But Trouble," Rialto; "This Man's Navy," Globe; "Between Two Women," Criterion; "Picture of Dorian Gray," Capitol.

Reviews

"Crime, Inc."

(*PRC*)

Hollywood, Feb. 6

SHOOTING straight at the heart of its theme—and shooting is the word—this picture of and against racketeering and gangsterism asks nobody's pardon and keeps no mobsters' secrets in its forthright presentation of organized crime and the problems it poses. With no concessions whatever to the theory that gangster pictures are not good for people, or something, producer Leon Fromkess has let fire with both barrels and the result is fast, forceful and realistic melodrama. It affords a sharp change of program pace for any exhibitor and a change of diet for his customers.

Tom Neal is the central character, portraying a police reporter whose career follows closely that of Martin Mooney, associate producer of the picture and author of the book on which its screenplay by Ray Schrock is based. His unearthing of the evidence which leads to the detection and arrest of the municipal and civic leaders who are the real bosses of a city's principal racket ring leads him through a trail of murders committed throughout the film. The plot is adroitly worked out and the action is tense at all times, with momentary pauses for some nightclub singing by Martha Tilton. Leo Carillo, Lionel Atwill, Grant Mitchell, Sheldon Leonard, George Meeker, Harry Shannon, Don Beddoe and Jack Gordon are others in the capable cast.

Running time, 75 min. General classification. Release date, March 31.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"Sheriff of Cimarron"

(*Republic*)

Hollywood, Feb. 6

YAKIMA CANUTT'S initial directorial effort is just what the Western fans want, to judge by the reaction of the audience at Hollywood's Hitching Post Theatre, which specializes in this type of film. Sunset Carson, Linda Stirling and Olin Howlin turn in fine performances, and Riley Hill is particularly effective as the villain of the piece.

Bennet Cohen's screenplay presents Sunset as an ex-convict who has spent three years in jail for a crime of which he was innocent. He goes to Cimarron in search of his brother, hoping that the latter will help clear Sunset's name. The brother, however, has fallen in with a gang of desperadoes, and is himself the inciter of a number of stagecoach robberies. Sunset, acting as sheriff *pro tem,* exposes his brother and eventually clears his own record.

The action never lags, and the comedy is refreshing. Altogether, "Sheriff of Cimarron" is superior to the usual run of Westerns. Thomas Carr acted as associate producer.

Running time, 57 mins. General Classification. Release date, not set.

THALIA BELL

Skouras 'Jap' Drive To Start Tomorrow

The 66 Skouras theatres in the New York area will start tomorrow to sell war stamps for a "Stamp Out the Japs" show, to be held on the morning of Feb. 22 in Skouras houses to raise $16,000, to be turned over to the 'Heroes Phone Fund' of the *Daily Mirror,* to pay for long distance phone calls of returned veterans to their homes throughout the U. S.

Theatres will sell 25-cent war stamps, and for each stamp presented, 25 cents will be sent to the phone fund. Drive is co-sponsored by the Skouras Theatres and the *Mirror.* William A. White, general manager of the Skouras circuit, and Nick John Matsoukas, director of the 'War Effort Department,' are in charge of the drive for Skouras.

PRC Will Release Five in February

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—PRC will release five pictures during February for showing during the company's fifth anniversary observation during March. The list and dates announced here yesterday by Leon Fromkess follow: Feb. 3, "His Brother's Ghost," Sigmund Neufeld production; Feb. 6, "The Kid Sister," Neufeld production; Feb. 8, "Marked for Murder," Alexander-Stern production; Feb. 15, "The Town Went Wild," Roth-Greene-Rouse production; Feb. 15, "The Man Who Walked Alone," Fromkess production.

Miller, Donaldson To Audit 'Dimes'

Miller, Donaldson and Co., certified public accountants, have again volunteered to audit theatre collections for last week's March of Dimes drive.

"Motion picture managers and house staffs have done a monumental job," said Walter Vincent, national 'Dimes' industry treasurer, here, yesterday, "and only one thing more remains—to make a prompt report of collections to motion picture state chairmen, and to accompany that report with a check for total collections made.

"The state chairmen will remit back to the local county treasurers of the National Foundation 50 per cent of all funds collected in each county. The millions of dollars collected from motion picture audiences cannot be put to work until all individual reports are in," Vincent added.

Turner Setting Two Promotions for RKO

Terry Turner, head of RKO Radio's home office exploitation staff, left New York for St. Louis yesterday to set up advance campaigns for the openings there of two new RKO films in that city on Feb. 14 and 20.

Turner is stopping off in Chicago to confer with Dick Powell on the latter's personal appearance tour in connection with the opening of "Murder My Sweet," one of the films. The other is "The Body Snatcher."

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Feb. 6

LOUIS D. LIGHTON, currently preparing "Anna and the King of Siam" for 20th Century-Fox, has been given a new three-year producer contract by that studio. . . . Ira Uhr has been signed by Republic as executive in charge of talent. . . . Milburn Stone has been added to the cast of Universal's "Strange Confession."

•

Myrna Loy is set for the starring role in the forthcoming M-G-M comedy, "Guardian Angel." . . . Andrew Stone will make a top-budget musical, titled "Pan-American Sensations of 1946," using theatrical talent of both the Americas. . . . Eve Arden has had her Warner contract renewed.

•

Columbia director William Castle has been granted a leave of absence from the studio in order to do the New York stage play, "Star Spangled Widow." . . . M-G-M plans to continue the "Hardy Family" series without Mickey Rooney, and has signed Booth Tarkington to write a novel on which the next in the series will be based. . . . Warner producer Arnold Albert has been assigned "Night Shift."

•

Columbia has purchased the screen rights to the radio serial, "Night Editor," and Leonard Picker will produce it. . . . Ida Lupino has been signed by Hunt Stromberg for the title role in "Young Widow," which William Dieterle will direct. . . . Smiley Burnette has returned to Hollywood after a tour of Army camps and hospitals.

•

Jeanne Crain, currently working in 20th Century-Fox's "State Fair," has had her contract renewed. . . . Frank Faylen has been added to the cast of Paramount's "The Well Groomed Bride." . . . Signe Hasso and James Craig will have the lead roles in 20th Century-Fox's "Dangerous Partners."

•

Jack Grant, PRC story editor, has been appointed an associate producer and assigned "The King of Proxy Street" and "Transcontinental" as his first two. He will continue in charge of the story department also. . . . Jack L. Warner has assigned Vincent Sherman to direct "Janie Gets Married," with Joyce Reynolds and Robert Hutton costarred, and has assigned David Butler to direct the color production of "Time, Place and the Girl."

•

Jack Henley and Joseph Hoffman have been assigned by Columbia to polish the script of "Song of Broadway," which Burt Kelly will produce. . . . Jean Heather, seen as the runaway girl in "Going My Way," has been given a prominent role in Paramount's "The Well Groomed Bride," which stars Ray Milland, Olivia de Havilland and Sonny Tufts. . . . M. Coates Webster has been commissioned by RKO to write the screenplay of "Ding Dong Williams," based on the series of magazine stories by Richard English. . . . PRC has given Edgar Ulmer, director of "Strange Illusion," a long term contract.

Stock Cut for Other Groups

(*Continued from page* 1)

ne allocations for industrial and ad-
ertising pictures, but both commit-
ees were told that they may expect
ubstantial cuts from previous allot-
nents in line with reductions made in
aw stock for features and newsreels.

It was indicated that the same sys-
em of percentage bases for alloca-
ons that was adopted for feature

"SOCK BOXOFFICE. WILL GET HOLDOVER RUNS!" —says Variety

"ONE OF THE BEST A & C FILMS!" —says Boxoffice

"HAD THE PREVIEW AUDIENCE IN STITCHES!" —says Motion Picture Herald

"FAST AND FURIOUS ENTERTAINMENT!" —says Film Daily

"TEMPTED TO SAY IT IS THEIR BEST SINCE 'BUCK PRIVATES'!" —says Hollywood Reporter

"SCREWBALLMANIA IN THE BEST ABBOTT AND COSTELLO MANNER!" —says Daily Variety

"DEFINITELY A BOXOFFICE SUCCESS!" —says Showmen's Trade Review

UNIVERSAL PICTURES

BUD ABBOTT
LOU COSTELLO

HERE COME THE CO-EDS

with **PEGGY RYAN**

Martha O'Driscoll Donald Cook

Lon Chaney June Vincent

Charles Dingle Richard Lane

and **PHIL SPITALNY** AND THE

HOUR OF CHARM ALL GIRL ORCH.

featuring EVELYN and her Magic Violin

Screen Play by Arthur T. Horman, and John Grant
Based on an original story by Edmund L. Hartmann
Directed by JEAN YARBROUGH
Produced by JOHN GRANT

Interlochen Camp Blacklisted by AFM

The National Music Camp at Interlochen, Mich., has been placed on the "unfair list" of the American Federation of Musicians, a move designed by the union to strip the school of the services of its faculty and to present the strongest possible barrier to a resumption of concerts by the National High School Orchestra, it became known yesterday.

If the four national networks or an individual radio station should carry the concerts of the high school students, they are liable to lose the services of musicians on all programs.

The listing of the Interlochen camp as "unfair," the climax of the union's two-year controversy with the school, was regarded as the labor group's answer to a bill of Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan. The bill, specifically intended to make it illegal to interfere with such programs as the Interlochen radio concerts, was passed unanimously last Friday by the Senate and is now before the House.

French Industry in Need of Support

If the new French Government supports the French film industry, as expected, that industry is capable of becoming second only to Hollywood in production, according to Jack Mandelblatt, former film buyer in pre-war Paris, who has arrived in this country. Mandelblatt said that the French turned out 130 films at their production peak in pre-war years, some of which warranted worldwide distribution.

Principal handicap to French production heretofore has been the reluctance of large French banks to finance films and consequently, most films were not big enough, production-wise, for the world market, disclosed Mandelblatt.

French production is still virtually at a standstill because many studios were destroyed and much equipment was destroyed by the Germans or carted away, Mandelblatt said.

American films will still be the predominant force in the French market, he added, because patrons there prefer their tempo, compared to that of the English film. J. Arthur Rank's reported buying an interest in French Gaumont, he said, will be followed by the British film leader entering French production, and for every French picture he produces he will release five British.

Mandelblatt will shortly reenter the film industry here.

Watch
U. A. releases
bearing
G.C.F.
Presents

Gov't Seeks Amendment On Clearance for All

(*Continued from page* 1)

minimum or advanced admission prices by distributors.

Indications are, industry attorneys say, that if the Government is successful in its initial offers to have the clearance proposals embodied in the decree, it will immediately thereafter seek an injunction against the three non-decree companies, and possibly others, to restrain them by court order from "selling clearance" to competitive theatres charging the same admission or to slightly competitive theatres.

Clearance briefs were served by the Government on Schwartz and Frohlich, counsel for Columbia; O'Brien, Driscoll and Raftery, representing United Artists, and Charles D. Prutzman and Adolph Schimel, Universal attorneys, as well as on decree companies.

The Department of Justice, in the brief, attacks any and all control of admission prices by distributors, whether specification of minimum prices or advanced admission prices. It charges distributors exercise control over admission prices in present methods of selling and that such a procedure is in violation of the Sherman Act.

Not So Simple

Company attorneys, commenting on the brief, said the question is not as simple as the Government represents. They maintain that it is the exhibitor who fixes his admission prices and even in cases where films are offered for sale at advanced admission prices it is still the exhibitor who has control over the admission prices he is to charge by retaining the prerogative to refuse to buy the film if the advanced admission price provision is one of the conditions of his purchase of the film.

In citing what it believes is unreasonable clearance under the decree and under the Sherman Act, the Department says in its brief: "Clearance restrictions have traditionally been imposed by distributors in this industry on the theory that their ownership of copyright on the films distributed entitled them to impose such restrictions on the exhibition of films in theatres as are necessary and appropriate to realize the maximum revenue from the exploitation of the copyright. Upon this theory, distributors have customarily undertaken to fix the minimum admission prices at which their films should be exhibited to the public in all of the theatres they license and maintenance of these minimum prices is made a condition of the enjoyment of such run (priority of exhibition in a particular area) and clearance privileges as the license grants. Such a use of run, clearance and admission price restrictions is keyed to the existing system of distribution, which involves the playing of the same film on successive runs in various theatres in the same competitive area at successively reduced admission prices."

"Obviously," the Department contends, "the first-run exhibitors would not ordinarily be expected to pay film rentals based upon the receipt of the highest admission price in a competitive area unless there were some assurance that the film they exhibited would not be exhibited elsewhere in the area at substantially lower prices until after the lapse of some reasonable period of time. Nevertheless, even such price-fixing has been held to be illegal when used to protect a theatre operating monoply from independent competition by destroying an existing price differential between subsequent runs in the same city.

Not Paid for Vending

Continuing this reasoning, the Department asserts: "As the minimum admission price fixed in the film license is not a price paid for the privilege of vending, performing or reproducing the copyrighted film, such a price restriction does not appear to be a *bona fide* exercise of any of the exclusive privileges granted by the copyright laws under any circumstances. The price paid for such a privilege is the sum paid by the exhibitor to the distributor for the use of the film in his theatre, designated in the license as a film rental. Whether this sum is stated as a flat figure or a percentage of the gross receipts, it will vary with the ability of the film to attract patrons to the theatre and the distributor thus has a financial stake in the exhibitor's admission prices, which determine the extent and value of that patronage. However, this kind of stake in the price at which the product is ultimately merchandised does not permit an interstate distributor of the product to fix the price at which others will vend it to the public. Such price-fixing violates the Sherman Act," the Department contends.

Sorrell Testifies at SOEG Fund Trial

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—Testifying here today for the Screen Office Employees Guild in the suit brought by dissident members charging a fund collected by assessment on the membership was used for political purposes in the last election, Conference of Studio Unions President Herbert Sorrell, to whose organization $2,000 from the SOEG fund was given, said the amount had been designated for use in fighting "Proposition 12."

State Assemblyman Albert Dekker, supported by CSU in the campaign, testified he did not know whether $700 used in his campaign was SOEG money, as the complainants allege. The case is expected to continue several days.

Disney's Quarterly Net: $391,000

(*Continued from page* 1)

crease in current working assets and a $6,468 decrease in liabilities.

Preferred stockholders elected George E. Jones and Harry E. Edington as directors representing preferred stock; common shareholders elected Walter E. Disney, Roy O. Disney, Gunther R. Lessing and Edna F. Disney.

Newly elected directors elected Walter E. Disney, president: Roy O. Disney, vice president, secretary and treasurer; Gunther E. Lessing vice president, Paul L. Pease, comptroller and assistant treasurer, and Paul C. Scanlon and Franklin Waldheim assistant secretaries.

Actors Valuable As Morale Builders To Army: Harding

Actors Equity spokesmen declare here that actors, directors and technicians of screen and stage "are more valuable as morale builders than they would be in defense plants."

"If they should be deferred from the Armed Forces because of overage limitations, or because they cannot meet physical requirements, it is our belief that they should be allowed to continue in their profession, and not be placed in a defense plant, where their general lack of training would make them little more than absolute novices, hardly capable of doing as much good as they might be able to do on screen, or stage, or in entertaining troops through the USO," Alfred Harding, of Actors Equity Association told MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

No Blanket Deferments

"This does not mean that we will request blanket deferments for actors or technicians. If the Army needs them they should go; we have never asked for any deferment for an actor, and we shall not do so now. Nor are we going to plan to fight any act passed by Congress which might be construed as 'War-work-or-else,' but we will bring to the War Manpower Commission's attention the immense good that both films and stage do for the Armed Forces and civilian morale, and we shall ask that this be kept in mind when demanding that unskilled actors go into war plants.

"Equity will take no action until Congress passes its service legislation, since it would be ridiculous to try to protect our people against something which is not even a law. After it becomes law, and after legal interpretations are placed on that law, then we can decide what course to follow.

"The possibility that actors may work in plants part of the time, and on the stage or screen another part of the time, which is now being considered by the League of New York Theatres, is a possibility, although on the surface it hardly seems practical," Harding concluded.

Theatre Architects Win

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—Arthur Frederick Adams and William F. Clark, theatre architects, won the $5,000 first prize in the WGN-Chicago Theatre of the Air competition for 'the most beautiful and efficient radio studio theatre of the world' which will be constructed here after the war. Adams designed the Paramount in New York and the Oriental and Southtown theatres, here.

FOREIGN DISTRIBUTOR WANTS

unreleased or reissue films for Spain, Cuba and Mexico.

Distributors controlling exclusive rights are requested to submit offers. DO NOT submit other firms' product.

Reply: Box 246
Motion Picture Daily
6305 Yucca St. - Hollywood, Cal.

Cooperation Pays Off!

PROMPT REDESIGNING of projector carbons to wartime needs became essential, after Pearl Harbor. Long years of research and manufacturing experience enabled National Carbon Company not only to make the needed changes at once, but also to produce "National" carbons that gave virtually the same screen brilliance as before.

Aiding us was the welcome technical cooperation of exhibitor, projectionist, and lamp manufacturer. Throughout the many months of war, this cooperation has "paid off" for all concerned.

Of special importance is the "dividend" paid off to the war effort by the enormous quantities of copper saved through recovery of copper drippings and stripping of copper from carbon stubs.

Because of all these cooperative efforts, patrons have overflowed theaters everywhere for the beneficial relaxation of good movies.

Keep Your Eye on the Infantry . . .

the Doughboy Does It!

The registered trade-mark "National" distinguishes products of National Carbon Company, Inc.

NATIONAL CARBON COMPANY, INC.

Unit of Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation

UCC

General Offices: 30 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y.

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HB
The biggest news of our lives will be met with a Warner picture that is timed as "Casablanca" was timed. "Hotel Berlin!" "Hotel Berlin!" "Hotel Berlin!"
Soon!
HB
Jack L. Warner
EXEC. PRODUCER

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 28 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1945 | TEN CENTS

FILE COPY DO NOT REMOVE

Seven Films Top Average In 12 Cities

'Meet Me in St. Louis' Leads for Second Time

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

"Meet Me in St. Louis," in a big initial week in San Francisco, in strong second weeks in Baltimore and Kansas City and in an outstanding seventh week in Philadelphia, leads for the second consecutive week in MOTION PICTURE DAILY's survey of first-run theatre grosses, excluding New York City, for the week ending Feb. 7. Seven films were above average during the week in the cities reported upon. Besides "Meet Me in St. Louis," they were, according to their ranking, "Here Come the Waves," "To Have and Have Not," "Keys of the Kingdom," "A Song to Remember," "Princess and the Pirate" and "Hollywood Canteen."

Cities reporting were Boston, Chicago, Denver, St. Louis, Pittsburgh,

(*Continued on page 6*)

Will Map Red Cross Film Drive Feb. 15

Members of the industry's national Red Cross committee will meet with industry leaders who will address Red Cross meetings throughout the country at a luncheon-conference at the University Club here next Thursday; the meeting was called by N. Peter Rathvon, national chairman of the industry's 1945 Red Cross 'War Fund Week.'

Among those who will conduct the out-of-town meetings and who will be present at the luncheon are: Charles

(*Continued on page 3*)

50,000 Candlepower For Astor Premiere

Prevented by the current 'brownout' from dressing up the Astor Theatre with flood and marquee lights for the Broadway premiere tomorrow of "The Princess and the Pirate," Samuel Goldwyn yesterday received a glimmer of hope of a solution of the lighting problem when he read this wire from Jackson Parks, Coast publicist:

(*Continued on page 6*)

Expansion to Fill Jobs for 'GI' Substitutes

Expansion contemplated by most of the film companies, their executives say, will absorb a sufficient number of servicemen substitutes in most office positions, to preclude any wholesale discharges, when the servicemen return to their jobs. The War Activities Committee, having compiled a list of the number of personnel of the film industry now in service, finds that some 45,000 men and women, employed by the companies prior to Dec. 7, 1941, are now in the Armed Forces, and while doubling up on jobs has been one method of solving the problem of new employees, some additional 25,000 workers are now in

(*Continued on page 7*)

SPU May Strike Again Tomorrow

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 7.—A new strike by the Screen Players Union, on Friday, is possible, according to SPU president Harry Mayo, unless a communication from the National Labor Relations Board, expected tomorrow, opens the way for a satisfactory settlement of the jurisdictional dispute with the Screen Actors Guild over bit players, stunt performers and singing extras.

Mayo said a local representative of

(*Continued on page 6*)

Weather Break Eases Fuel Problem

With the weather-break, and a resumption of coal deliveries, the situation confronting New York's 700 theatres is considerably eased, and there is little likelihood of any closings. Most theatres now have sufficient coal to meet any but an extraordinary emergency, and those which do not have purchased cordwood in sufficient quantities to ward off shutdowns.

O'Connor, Sanford Head Charity Group

John J. O'Connor, vice-president of Universal Pictures, has been named chairman of the film industry division of the special gifts committee of the Archbishop's Committee of the Laity for the 1945 appeal of New York Catholic Charities, it was announced here yesterday by John A. Coleman, executive chairman of the committee.

John J. O'Connor

Again serving with O'Connor will be Bert Sanford, of Altec Service, as vice-chairman. Post-

(*Continued on page 7*)

'IA' Orders Drives for Theatre Managers Halted

The IATSE executive board has directed that all attempts to organize theatre managers and assistant managers by IATSE locals be discontinued, warning that no authorization has been granted to any 'IA' local to organize managers, it was learned here this week. IATSE projectionists' local No. 110 in Chicago would appear to be one of the locals hit.

The only known active group of managers is the Motion Picture Theatre Operating Managers and Assistant Managers Guild, representing managers and assistants in the 40 RKO theatres in the Metropolitan New York area. The Guild, which has no affiliation with either the AFL or the CIO is presently involved in a contract dispute with RKO before the Regional War Labor Board here.

However, IATSE locals are being encouraged to concentrate upon organization drives of other front-of-the-house employes, including ushers, doormen, cashiers and matrons. IATSE locals in New York and Chicago recently embarked upon organization drives among those workers with drives in other cities expected under existing 'IA' charters.

It is considered likely that the IATSE might grant a charter to cashiers in the RKO theatres here who recently organized with the RKO managers but were ordered separated from that group by the New York State Labor Relations Board.

IATSE Seeks Jurisdiction In Television

Will Claim Same Jobs It Controls Elsewhere

Believing that at least 60 per cent of television programming in the early postwar years will be on films, the IATSE is studying all aspects of television broadcasting with an eye to seeking jurisdiction over many types of jobs performed both in television studios and in producing programs for television, Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, has disclosed to MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

There are 100 applications on file with the Federal Communications Commission for permission to build commercial television stations, and there are five stations now operating in

(*Continued on page 3*)

Newbury, Dollinger Head Buying Group

An initial membership of 65 Northern New Jersey theatres, preponderantly those of officers and members of Allied Theatre Owners of New Jersey, are included in the ranks of Independent Theatre Service, Inc., newly formed buying combine, it was announced yesterday.

Officers of the organization are:

(*Continued on page 7*)

Adams of WPB Will Meet ITOA's Cohen

Max Cohen, chairman of the film committee of the Independent Theatre Owners Association, will meet tomorrow with Stanley Adams, head of War Production Board Consumers Durable Goods Division, on the recently announced raw stock cut limiting the number of prints per picture.

The ITOA board met Feb. 2 on the

(*Continued on page 3*)

In This Issue

Review of "Let's Go Steady" appears on page 3, *Motion Picture Daily's* booking chart, page 11.

1944 Net of CBS Up to $4,678,000

Columbia Broadcasting System had net earnings of approximately $4,678,000 for the fiscal year ended Dec. 30, 1944, compared with a net of $4,535,900 for the year preceding, according to a preliminary report to the stockholders made here yesterday by Frank K. White, vice-president and treasurer. The 1944 net is equivalent to $2.72 per share of stock, a rise from $2.64 per share earned in 1943. Both calculations are based on 1,717,076 shares of $2.50 par value stock outstanding.

Prior to estimating last year's net, CBS made a provision of $8,250,000 for Federal income and excess profits taxes, an increase of $675,000 over the 1943 provision. A 10 per cent excess profits postwar credit amounting to $649,000 is not included in the 1944 tax figure.

The board of directors yesterday declared a cash dividend of 40 cents on the Class A and Class B $2.50 par-value stock, payable March 2 to stockholders of record Feb. 16.

The annual financial report will be distributed April 1.

Nizer Wins Savoy, Jamaica, Action

After a three weeks' trial, Justice Steinbrink of Supreme Court, Queens County, has ruled in favor of Jack J. Alterman, Lewis B. Alterman, and the Long Island M. P. Co., operators of the Savoy Theatre, Jamaica, L. I., in an action brought by a stockholder, William Isensee, who claimed that the Altermans, while in control of the Long Island M. P. Co., which owned the theatre building, made a lease to themselves in the name of the Coy Operating Co. and thus derived improper benefits for themselves in violation of their trust as directors of both corporations.

Louis Nizer, attorney for the defendants, contended that the Altermans opened the theatre themselves only when all prior tenants had failed and that they did so to save the theatre building because no other tenant could be obtained.

The decision terminates a five-year contest involving the rights to the Savoy Theatre.

Blanche Livingston Promoted by Mandel

Blanche F. Livingston, long a member of the home office staff of Harry Mandel, RKO Theatres' director of advertising-publicity and a member of the board of directors of the Associated Motion Picture Advertisers, has been assigned to the position of handling publicity, promotion and exploitation for RKO out-of-town theatres, by Mandel.

'Tree Grows' in Manila

Twentieth Century-Fox's "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" will be shown to American G. I.'s in Manila before it is shown anywhere else in the world, according to an announcement by Col. E. L. Munson Jr., chief of the U. S. Army Pictorial Service.

Personal Mention

ABE SCHNEIDER, Columbia treasurer, will leave Hollywood for New York on Sunday. He has been vacationing with MRS. SCHNEIDER at Palm Springs.

•

MYRON IRA MANDEL, son of HARRY MANDEL, RKO Theatres advertising-publicity director, and MRS. MANDEL, will be Bar Mitzvahed on Feb. 17 at the Forest Hills (L.I.) Jewish Center. A reception-luncheon will follow at the Hotel Ambassador here.

•

IKE and HARRY KATZ of PRC, Atlanta, have returned there from St. Louis. IKE was reelected to the executive committee of PRC franchise holders to serve with chairman GEORGE GILL of Washington, D. C.

•

MAURY GOLDSTEIN, M-G-M New Haven branch manager, will arrive in Boston today for meetings with M. N. WOLF, district manager, and TOM DONALDSON, branch manager.

•

JOSEPH SPIVAK, manager of the Music Box, New Britain, Conn., is the father of a boy, BURTON, born in Hartford.

•

M. J. SIEGEL, M-G-M production executive, will arrive in New York from the Coast today.

•

WILLIAM GLEICHER of the M-G-M sales department will leave for Boston today.

•

J. E. FLYNN, M-G-M Western sales manager, will arrive in New York from Chicago next week.

•

JOEL LEVY, Loew out-of-town booker, will leave New York today on a seven-city tour.

•

MORTON SPRING, Loew International vice-president, is visiting the Coast studios.

SAM DEMBOW, JR., president of Golden Prod., now on the Coast, will spend 10 days there before returning to New York.

•

MARTIN JUROW, talent executive for Hal Wallis Prod., has returned to Hollywood from New York, after attending the funeral of his mother, MRS. BENJAMIN JUROW.

•

HOWARD ROBINSON, St. John, N. S., a member of the board of directors of Famous Players-Canadian, has been elected to the board of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

•

JOHN W. MANGHAM, president of Film Classics, Atlanta, and FRANK HARRIS of the same company, are in New York.

•

G. L. CARRINGTON, president of Altec Service Corp., left here yesterday for the Coast, stopping over in Washington and Chicago en route.

•

FLIGHT LIEUT. JOHN M. WESTON, formerly of the Parkdale Theatre, Toronto, is reported missing in air operations overseas.

•

HAROLD COHEN, special sales representative of Monogram Southern Exchanges, is visiting Atlanta.

•

HARRY N. BLAIR, PRC Eastern advertising-publicity manager, is in Boston.

•

GEORGE F. DEMBOW, vice-president of National Screen Service, is in California on a regular mid-Winter trip.

•

ROBERT M. WEITMAN, managing director of the New York Paramount, left here for Hollywood yesterday.

•

JAMES K. MCGUINNESS, M-G-M producer, is in New York from the Coast.

Wynbergen, Belgium RKO Manager, Dies

Leon Wynbergen, RKO Radio manager for Belgium, died Monday in London of a heart attack, according to a cable received here yesterday by Phil Reisman, RKO vice-president in charge of foreign distribution.

Wynbergen was associated for many years with the United Kingdom sales organization of RKO and was in London awaiting restoration of stable conditions in Belgium before resuming his post there.

Sam Angelini Killed

HAMILTON, Ontario, Feb. 7.—Sam Angelini, formerly of the Tivoli Theatre here, has been killed in action with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Herron Rejoins MPPDA

Col. Frederick L. Herron, formerly foreign manager for the MPPDA, has returned to handle foreign details, after four years in the Army. Col. Herron entered service in March, 1941; he was stationed in Washington.

Folliard to Field For Depinet Drive

Starting a 27-day tour that will again take him to every RKO branch in the United States and Canada, Robert Folliard, RKO's Eastern district manager and 1945 'Ned Depinet Drive' captain, will leave Sunday for St. Louis, initial stop on the second tour in behalf of the drive. He will be accompanied by Harry Michalson, RKO short subject sales manager.

From St. Louis Folliard and Michalson will go to Kansas City, with the remainder of their itinerary following in this order: Des Moines, Omaha, Minneapolis, Sioux Falls, Calgary, Winnipeg, Milwaukee, Chicago, Denver, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Vancouver, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Dallas, Oklahoma City, Memphis, New Orleans, Atlanta, Charlotte, Washington, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, Albany, Toronto, Montreal, St. John, Boston, New Haven, returning to New York March 21.

The drive was officially launched Jan. 19.

NFTC Bids Congress Legalize Cartels

A resolution is being forwarded to members of Congress by the National Foreign Trade Council, outlining four specific recommendations for Congressional action on cartel-like international business agreements, which would define more clearly the type of agreements in which American companies could participate.

The council's recommendations are: that Congress require the filing with the Department of State of international business agreements; that it specify the standards of the nation's foreign economic policy to be considered in determining the reasonableness of possible restraints of trade in such agreements; that it specifically recognize that Americans may enter into agreements valid under foreign laws, provided they result in no unreasonable restraint of trade in the United States; and that Congress should authorize the State Department to give revocable approval to proposed agreements which it finds do not constitute unreasonable restraint of trade within the United States.

Foreign Managers Honor F. C. de Wolf

The international department of the MPPDA was host at a luncheon yesterday at the Harvard Club in honor of Francis Colt de Wolf, chief of the telecommunications division of the Department of State, in appreciation for his cooperation on Industry problems. Also attending were: J. A. McConville, J. Segal, Columbia; Murray Silverstone, Ben Miggins, 20th Century-Fox; Major Arthur M. Loew, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer; John W. Hicks, Jr., Geo. Weltner, Paramount; Phil Reisman, RKO Radio; Walter Gould, T. P. Mulrooney, United Artists; C. A. Kirby, A. L. Daff, Universal; John J. Glynn, Jos. S. Hummel, Warner Bros.; L. F. Samuels, Wm. Levy, Walt Disney.

Representing the MPPDA were: C. E. Milliken, F. L. Herron and H. L. Smith, with N. Peter Rathvon, president of RKO, representing the committee on foreign relations of the MPPDA board of directors.

Current distribution situations obtaining in foreign countries were informally discussed at the luncheon.

McCormick Sets Big 'Murder' Promotion

An extensive trade paper advertising campaign paralleling the national magazine campaign announced last week for RKO's "Murder, My Sweet" to be released starting with a special opening at the Fox Theatre, St. Louis, was announced here yesterday, February 7th, by S. Barret McCormick, RKO director of advertising-publicity.

Five two-page ads, all in color, have been prepared by advertising manager Ben Grimm and will break throughout the trade press starting this week, running into early March.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor, Published daily except Saturday, Sunday, and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Theo Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1945 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

IATSE Seeks Jurisdiction In Television

(*Continued from page* 1)

the East, one in Chicago and two on the West Coast, besides several additional stations which are not operating at present.

In "moving in" on television, the IATSE is expected to meet jurisdictional disputes with both the National Association of Broadcast Engineers and Technicians, an independent union, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of the American Federation of Labor.

Among workers over which the "IA" will seek jurisdiction, because it has jurisdiction over them in either the film industry or legitimate theatre, or in both, are: projectionists who handle films in television stations, stage hands, set designers, cameramen, lighting and "boom"-microphone men, film processors and make-up and wardrobe help.

NBC Has Some

National Broadcasting is the only company in the field known to employ "IA" help for certain tasks in their present experimental television operations, using them in station WMBT in New York. It is understood that IATSE stagehands are employed but that NABET members are on projectors. Columbia Broadcasting, DuMont, Philco and General Electric are not believed to have any commitments with any union in their experimental television operations in the East.

It is understood that "IA" locals are studying television operations of the Balaban and Katz television station in Chicago and the Paramount and Don Lee stations on the West Coast, also with an idea to claiming immediate jurisdiction.

An "IA" conflict with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers over jurisdiction of television operations manifested itself a year ago during negotiations between film companies and the unions on new contracts for studio help, but the issue was sidetracked at that time. The IATSE executive board made no secret of its interest in both television and 16 mm film production which will eventually be tied in with television, at the recent meeting of its board in Minneapolis.

Would Get Set Now

Executives of some television stations are understood to be anxious to have all problems of worker jurisdiction settled now so that the industry can go ahead without having to fear jurisdictional battles later between unions. Present plans call for the "IA" to move in on every contemplated television station, since indications are that every station will have to use films for at least part of their air time, while a good portion of the remaining time will be devoted to the production of "live" shows.

Para. Buys 'Dear Ruth'

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 7.—Paramount has bought the New York stage play "Dear Ruth" for a reported $450,000. Henry Ginsberg, executive producer, said Sonny Tufts would be starred in the film.

Review

"Let's Go Steady"

(*Columbia*)

Hollywood, Feb. 7

TED RICHMOND'S production depends for interest upon a succession of specialty numbers, all of which are staged with liveliness and vitality. The youngsters who make up the cast, headed by Pat Parrish, Jackie Moran, June Preisser and Arnold Stang, perform with earnestness and incredible energy.

The screenplay, by Erna Lazarus, concerns a group of aspiring young songwriters, all of whom have been mulcted by a dishonest publisher. Descending upon the publisher en masse, they find that he is dead, and the business has come into the hands of his niece. The group join forces to peddle their own songs, and manage to do so with such success that one of them wins a cash prize in a nationwide contest.

Del Lord directed to such effect that the production numbers, of which there are many, contribute to the general liveliness of the picture. Good use is made of the currently popular song, "I Don't Want to Love You."

Running time, 61 minutes. General classification. THALIA BELL

Adams of WPB Will Meet ITOA's Cohen

(*Continued from page* 1)

cut, and its members instructed Cohen to get an immediate hearing, stating that the cut would reduce the number of prints and affect independent theatres adversely. The wire to Adams said that the War Production Board order cutting the raw stock quota means cutting down the present number of prints and that cutting down the number will not have any effect on run theatres, but will definitely affect subsequent runs with resultant financial damage.

Wires were also dispatched to Milton Star of the War Production Board, and Si Fabian of the War Activities Committee, asking their aid in securing the hearing before Adams.

WPB Will Not Act On Raw Stock Complaints

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Exhibitor protests over the limitation of release prints to a maximum of 285, are not expected to have much effect upon the War Production Board, which established that limit last week in passing on raw stock allocations for the current quarter.

A resolution of protest was adopted last week by the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York, and other exhibitor groups are understood to have given it consideration, seeing in the limitation, a possible adversity to subsequent-run exhibitors.

WPB officials today refused to comment on the ITOA's resolution, but it was pointed out that the question of prints was thoroughly canvassed with the industry's advisory committee at last week's meeting, and the possible effect of a limitation upon subsequent-run theatres was among the questions considered. There was no indication that the board would be inclined to change its requirements at this time, but officials said that any individual or organization which fears it would be unduly injured by any order, is free at all times to make his or its views known. If actual experience under the limitation develops that it is indeed creating a bad situation, it was pointed out, corrective action can be taken at any time.

Carrabelle House Opens

CARRABELLE, Fla., Feb. 7.—H. Papadopoulos has opened the Rex Theatre here.

NAM Has Program To Aid in Postwar

As a contribution to a high level of postwar employment, the National Association of Manufacturers will make public today a report of its postwar Committee approved by its board of directors, of which J. Cheever Cowdin, Universal Pictures' board chairman, is a member.

The report, which has interest to the motion picture industry because of contemplated postwar foreign expansion, calls for a fact-finding international investment organization, private insurance of foreign credits, the repeal of the Johnson Act, lend-lease settlements leading to fair world trade, export of American 'know-how,' and tests soundness of U. S. foreign investments.

"For the expanding economy at home which is being generally invoked but still too vaguely discussed, we not only need foreign trade but we also need foreign investments; if we depend for our expansion solely on trade, we shall run promptly into the difficulty that foreign trade is a two-way movement and that our sale of goods and services abroad will build up a return-pressure on our tariff wall and domestic producers," it is said.

For Foreign Loans

"We can avoid this bottleneck in our job-giving cycle of production and distribution in the early postwar period by exporting dollars in the form of private investments and loans. Thereby we will provide long-term dollars which foreign purchasers may add to their current trade receipts from sales to us, and so make up the necessary dollar balances to pay for more of our goods and services," the report adds.

"Our stake in the postwar field of foreign trade investments, might be perhaps 3,000,000 jobs in the United States and some $10,000,000,000 of goods and services annually to be sold abroad."

Some other recommendations made by NAM are: "An international agreement should be prepared and signed among nations setting forth rights and obligations of their nationals as to foreign creditors and debtors and foreign investors; an international organization should be established as a repository of information in connection with international loans and investments, as a fact-finding body in case of disputes, and as a medium for conciliation.

Coming Events

Today—Paramount regional sales meeting, Dallas.

Today—NBC 'Parade of Stars' luncheon at the Waldorf.

Feb. 12—Paramount regional sales meeting, Chicago.

Feb. 13—Meeting of Industry Advisory Committee for 16 mm. Film with WPB at the Social Security Building, Washington.

Feb. 14—Paramount regional sales meeting, Cleveland.

Feb. 15—Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Association annual luncheon and election of officers.

Feb. 17—Presentation of Marconi Plaque to Television Broadcasters Association, at the Hotel Astor, New York.

Feb. 18—'One World' Award dinner and presentations to Darryl F. Zanuck, Brig. General Sarnoff, Kent Cooper, Hotel Astor, New York.

Feb. 19—Industry Red Cross Drive opening meeting, New York.

Feb. 20—Paramount regional sales meeting, New York.

Feb. 20—Warner Brothers' annual stockholders meeting, Wilmington.

Feb. 21—20th Century-Fox Family Club Dance, City Center Casino, New York.

Feb. 21-27—Paramount regional sales meeting, Philadelphia.

Will Map Red Cross Film Drive Feb. 15

(*Continued from page* 1)

Reagan, Paramount; Ben Kalmenson, Warner Bros.; William Scully, Universal; Abe Montague, Columbia; Tom Connors, 20th Century-Fox; Ned Depinet and Robert Mochrie, RKO Radio; Carl Leserman, United Artists; S. H. Fabian and Francis Harmon, War Activities Committee; Herman Wobber, 20th Century-Fox; Martin Smith of Allied States Association. Others who will address key city meetings and who might attend the luncheon are: Robert J. O'Donnell, Charles Skouras, Rick Ricketson, M. A. Lightman and Henry Reeves.

Members of the national committee who will attend, besides Rathvon, are: Major L. E. Thompson, Leon J. Bamberger, S. Barret McCormick, Harry Mandel, Arthur M. Brilant, Gradwell L. Sears, Henderson M. Richey, John J. O'Connor, William C. Michel, E. M. Schnitzer, Bernard M. Kamber, Herman Robbins and John A. Cassidy.

Red Cross Blood Stamp For Industry's Week

Postmaster General Frank C. Walker discloses that a new commemorative stamp will soon be issued in honor of the Red Cross blood plasma campaign, but no definite date has been set for its release, and an effort is being made to have the new stamp issued coincidentally with the 1945 Red Cross "War Fund Week," March 15-21, according to the industry's 1945 Red Cross drive committee.

Lt. Cox Wins Navy Cross

Lt. (jg) John R. Cox, Jr., USNR, who as John Howard, appeared in many Paramount pictures, has been awarded the Navy Cross.

"I THINK YOU'RE WONDERFUL, MR. VAN JOHNSON!"

(and so do millions of other gals from eight to eighty who are packing theatres to see M-G-M's Van Johnson in "THIRTY SECONDS OVER TOKYO" and who watch for him in "BETWEEN TWO WOMEN." The honors pour in from everywhere: Ladies Home Journal, Photoplay, Screen Guide, Variety, Film Daily, Modern Screen, Look Magazine and countless others proclaim Van, the idol of the millions.)

"YOU'RE AMERICA'S NEW SWEETHEART, MARGARET O'BRIEN!"

(that's what the fans are saying all over the nation as they watch M-G-M's little Margaret in "MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS." She repeats her triumph in "MUSIC FOR MILLIONS" as America showers her with acclaim. Cited three times in Screen Guide's Vote, cited twice in Film Daily's Famous Fives, leader in Showmen's Trade Review New Stars, hailed by press and public as the new darling of the screen.)

PRESS-TIME FLASH!
Another Big M-G-M Hit is off to a flying start Nationwide! "NATIONAL VELVET" is terrific in its 3-theatre Miami engagement. Watch for more!

1924 1945
21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP
MGM

STAR BUILDER!

Sign That Pledge Card!
Red Cross Drive—March 15-21

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Feb. 7

JAMES M. CAIN's controversial novel, "Serenade," has been purchased by Warners and added to Jerry Wald's production schedule. . . . George Abbott, currently producing "Kiss and Tell," for Columbia, plans to follow his initial production with a series of other pictures, not yet determined.

•

Republic has purchased an original by Frank Wisbar, titled "Fighting Madonna," and has signed the author to do the screen treatment. . . . Paramount has exercised its option on the writing team of Norman Panama and Melvin Frank. . . . Michel Kraike has been assigned by Columbia to produce "The Kansan."

•

Joyce MacKenzie, 19-year-old unknown recently put under contract by International, will make her screen debut in "Tomorrow Is Forever," which Irving Pichel is directing. . . . Rita Corday has been awarded a new contract by RKO, and has been named for the feminine lead in "The Falcon in San Francisco.". . . Universal has renewed producer Warren Wilson's contract.

•

Columbia producer Ted Richmond has been signed to a long-term contract; his next assignment will be the Judy Canova picture, "Hayfoot, Strawfoot." . . . John Qualen has been selected by Benedict Bogeaus for a featured role in "Captain Kidd." . . . Milburn Stone has had his Universal contract renewed.

•

Ring Lardner, Jr. has prepared the first treatment of "Earth and High Heaven," which Samuel Goldwyn will produce this Summer. . . . Dancer Marc Platt, who scored in Columbia's "Tonight and Every Night," has had his contract extended. . . . Producer Charles R. Rogers has signed Frank Cavett, who wrote "Going My Way," to do the screenplay for "My Wild Irish Rose."

Two More Theatres Suffer Fire Damage

The fourth fire within a month at the Pix Theatre, 121 West 42nd St., damaged display material in a basement storeroom yesterday.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Feb. 7.—Fire damaged the Colonial here today, but the near capacity audience of 1,200 filed out without confusion. Five firemen were injured, and three others overcome by smoke before the blaze was controlled.

'Berlin' Budget up 40%

To exploit the timeliness of 'Hotel Berlin,' Warners has boosted the film's radio advertising budget 40 per cent above normal and will concentrate on spot announcements following leading news commentators in key cities. 'Berlin' will open at the Strand here in three weeks and a large number of key premieres will precede the national release, which is set for March 17.

7 Films Above Average In 12 Key City Reports

(*Continued from page 1*)

Kansas City, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Buffalo, Toronto, Philadelphia and San Francisco.

Reports from four theatres in Philadelphia, Kansas City, Baltimore and San Francisco gave "Meet Me in St. Louis" a terrific $33,200 above house averages. It was the top grosser in San Francisco with $41,000, a hefty $13,000 above on a second week in Kansas City, sturdy in Baltimore, and still ran considerably above house average on a big seventh week in Philadelphia.

"Here Come the Waves" was a big $23,800 above in reports from four theatres in Boston, Denver, St. Louis and Cincinnati. It was almost twice as good as average in an initial week in Denver; was big for an initial week on a dual in Boston, and it scored heavily for a big second week in St. Louis on a dual and a good third week on a moveover in Cincinnati.

'To Have and Have Not'

"To Have and Have Not" was $25,400 above in reports from seven theatres in Philadelphia, Denver, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Baltimore, San Francisco and Buffalo. Excellent business was recorded in third weeks in Philadelphia and Kansas City and on moveovers in Denver and San Francisco.

"Keys of the Kingdom" was a strong $31,350 above in reports from 10 theatres in Philadelphia, Chicago, Denver, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Cincinnati, Baltimore and San Francisco. Best business was reported from three theatres in Kansas City with an outstanding first week recorded in San Francisco. It was doing sturdy business in second weeks in Philadelphia, Chicago and Cincinnati and still profitable in a moveover in Denver.

"A Song to Remember" is up amongst the leaders with an impressive $15,100 above in reports from five theatres in four cities. It did terrific business in two theatres in Boston for a heavy $14,000 above and was holding up well in a good third week in San Francisco and profitable second weeks in St. Louis and Cincinnati.

"Princess and the Pirate" was $7,900 above in reports from three theatres in three cities but this fact hardly tells the story. It was an outstanding $4,000 above house average on an 11th week in Chicago; was big in a second run in Philadelphia, and profitable on a third week of a moveover in Pittsburgh.

'Hollywood Canteen'

"Hollywood Canteen" was just above average in reports from six theatres in Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis and Toronto. It is in second run in Philadelphia, a sixth week in Chicago and a second week in St. Louis.

"I'll Be Seeing You," playing in two Denver theatres on a dual, skyrocketed box office receipts to $43,875, where the combined house averages are $19,500.

"Tonight and Every Night" is doing good business in Cincinnati and Baltimore. "Together Again" scored well for a third week in Chicago, while doing average business in St. Louis. "Tomorrow the World" did moderate business in Cincinnati on an initial week. "Winged Victory" held up well in Philadelphia in a second week and also in Boston.

50,000 Candlepower For Astor Premiere

(*Continued from page 1*)

"Curly Twyford, small-animal and insect contractor to film industry, offers you 50,000 fireflies for lobby lighting at Astor premiere. He provided trained mouse for 'Princess and Pirate.' Twyford claims these are California-bred fireflies of extra high candlepower as well as previous theatrical experience, having worked in 'Up in Arms' and 'North Star.' Will ship fireflies by air express at five dollars a thousand plus attendant's expense."

Goldwyn is weighing the possibility of holding over the insect swarm after the premiere to warm the house and conserve the Astor's fuel supply.

Judge Denies SOEG Motion to End Suit

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 7.—Superior Court Judge Willis today denied the Screen Office Employees Guild's motion for dismissal of the suit brought by dissident members seeking to enjoin the union from assessing members to finance political activity.

The jurist's denial followed testimony by Jack Williams, Conference of Studio Unions' official, who said $2,000 received from SOEG in the last election was not used for politics.

Committee Favors Discrimination Law

ALBANY, Feb. 7.—The Assembly Ways and Means Committee today will report favorably the Ives bill outlawing discrimination in employment because of "race, creed, color or national origin," and establishing a five-man State agency to enforce the law, it was revealed today. The committee vote was 11 to three for a favorable report.

The measure will come up for debate and final action either Feb. 19 or 20, and while serious opposition is expected, committee members are confident that the bill will pass. One minor change was made in the bill, in that the members of the five-man agency will not have to devote all of their time to commission work.

SPU May Strike Again Tomorrow

(*Continued from page 1*)

the NLRB has promised action tomorrow. If this is unfavorable, he added, an emergency membership meeting will be called immediately, and pickets will be stationed at all studios. The previous strike began last Friday morning but was discontinued that same night pending further negotiations.

Paramount to Care For Handicapped

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 7.—Paramount will care for its former employes in the Armed Forces when they return to civilian life and will find a place in the organization for those who are handicapped as a result of the war, Claude Lee, director of public relations, stated at the company's district meeting at the Hotel Muehlebach here yesterday. Lee is accompanying Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution, and other home office executives, to district meetings throughout the country.

St. Louis, Des Moines and Kansas City exchanges were represented here. A survey showed that those present had from 10 to 32 years company service, with Arthur Cole, Kansas City office manager, holding seniority place of honor.

R. M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director, gave details of the functions of his department. Forthcoming product was discussed by Reagan, Lee, Gillham, and George A. Smith, Western, and J. J. Donohue, Central division managers.

Smith Presides

An informal luncheon for local exhibitors was addressed by the home office executives, with division manager Smith as master-of-ceremonies.

The following exhibitors attended: Harry Warren, Jerry Zigmond, Ed Durwood, R. R. Biechele, J. A. Becker, H. Harris, Ed Haas, Senn Lawler, James Long, Leon Robertson, Earl Jameson, Glen W. Dickinson and others. D. S. Hartley, motion picture editor of the *Kansas City Star*, and representatives of trade publications also were guests.

Also attending were: R. C. LiBeau, Kansas City district manager, and James Castle, district advertising representative, and delegates of the three branch offices, as follows: Kansas City: R. M. Copeland, A. H. Cole, J. H. States, Joseph Stark, Robert Carnie, M. E. Anderson and Earl Ogan; St. Louis: Maurice Schweitzer, Harold Wise, L. V. Kuttnauer, Ruben Rosenblatt, Amos Leonard, Joseph Howard; Des Moines: H. M. Hamburg, James Foley, P. W. Robbins, Edwin Sandblom and William Curry.

Horne Host to Allen At 'In Bag' Dinner

William Horne, Eastern representative for Jack Skirball, was host to Fred Allen, Mrs. Allen, trade press and magazine representatives, United Artists home office executives and others at a dinner at the Hotel Brevoort here last night prior to a screening of the Skirball-UA release "It's in the Bag" at Loew's Sheridan Theatre.

Among those present were: Edward C. Raftery, Gradwell L. Sears, Carl Leserman, John Hertz, Jr., Edward Peskay, Edward M. Schnitzer, Walter Gould, Emanuel Silverstone, Carl Mulrooney, James Dunn, Lou Goldberg and Herb Berg.

Three New Film Courses

New courses in motion picture photography, film writing and film editing are being offered by the Institute of Film Techniques at City College here. Registration begins today.

FM Changes Would Scrap 500,000 Sets

CHICAGO, Feb. 7.—If the changes in frequency modulation wave lengths, as advocated by the Federal Communications Commission, are adopted, 500,000 radio sets, worth more than $50,000,000 will be made useless, J. J. Nance, vice-president of the Zenith Radio Corp., said here yesterday.

Reporting to the Investment Analysts Club, Nance declared that it would be impractical to rebuild the sets if new frequencies are adopted. He asserted the change would delay FM expansion by at least a year.

O'Connor, Sanford Head Charity Group

(*Continued from page* 1)

master General Frank C. Walker is treasurer, and George J. Schaefer is assistant treasurer of the committee.

The special gifts committee, comprising both business and professional leaders in New York, will function prior to the annual parish appeal of Catholic Charities, which, in turn, will begin April 22 in the 374 parishes of the New York Archdiocese. This is the 26th annual appeal of the organization which coordinates the work of institutions and agencies including hospitals, child-caring homes, settlement houses, day nurseries, homes for the aged, Summer camps and many other welfare agencies, including family relief. The New York Archdiocese comprises the boroughs of Manhattan, Bronx and Richmond and the counties of Westchester, Orange, Dutchess, Rockland, Ulster, Putnam and Sullivan.

Managers in Toronto Elect George Morrell

TORONTO, Feb. 7.—George Morrell has been elected president of the Toronto Suburban Managers Association, which also chose Maurice Doyle vice-president, Allan Easson treasurer and Jay Smith secretary.

At the election meeting, the association passed unanimously a vote of thanks to Charlie Querrie, retiring president, and created the title of honorary president to confer upon him.

Rivoli Is Aiding Boy Scout Week

The Rivoli Theatre on Broadway is cooperating with sponsors of Boy Scout Week, which starts today, by presenting a Scouts' flag ceremony at every performance followed by brief talks. Scouts are introduced to audiences by Monty Salmon, managing director of the Rivoli. The theatre's ceremonies were started yesterday and will continue through tomorrow.

Neville Heads Pioneers

VANCOUVER, B. C., Feb. 7.—"Cec" Neville, chief booker for Famous Players-Canadian theatres here, has been elected president of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, British Columbia branch.

Huston to Warners

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 7.—Ralph Huston, recently assistant publicity director for Cagney Productions, has joined Alex Evelove's publicity department at Warner Bros.' studio.

Expansion to Fill Jobs For 'GIs' Substitutes

(*Continued from page* 1)

the industry as a result of the departure of these veterans.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY has queried executive heads of the companies, in an endeavor to ascertain the probable procedures for reemploying returning service men and women and policies to be applied to the war-time replacements. Executives speaking on and off the record, disclosed three main points: First: Any and all service men will receive their own jobs back, or similar or better ones, if they desire to return. Second: A policy of expansion and if necessary, stretching, will enable the companies to retain at least 90 per cent of the current replacements. Third: the problem will not be serious, as the majority of the men who entered service were young, from 18-30, and did not hold top executive jobs. Many of these men with the highly specialized training they received in the Army, will be looking for better opportunities than their pre-war jobs afforded them, and will not care to return to the positions of ushers, clerks or errand boys. It is also felt that many women, wives of servicemen, will automatically retire on the return of their respective spouses, and will leave vacancies to be filled.

Statements of the various executive heads, as given verbatim are as follows:

Nicholas M. Schenck

Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's: "We expect to take care of our men as they come along. In some departments we have been shorthanded. Other departments present problems, but our full intention is to solve them in order to provide employment for those who have left to join the service. I have every confidence that our organization, without too much disturbance of personnel, will be able to conform to the requirements of the situation as it arises."

Barney Balaban, president of Paramount: "There is no problem at the moment. We do not know how it will shape up in the future and we can't make predictions of what might happen. I repeat what I said a long time ago. All those Paramount employees in service will come back to the company if they want to come back."

Harry M. Warner

Harry M. Warner, president of Warner Bros.: "I assure all our service men that their jobs will be waiting for them when they return. Records show that 400 employees have been discharged from the service, and about two-thirds have wanted to come back, and in every case they have received an equivalent or better position. We have over 3,900 in service now. No one has been let out to take any serviceman back."

Spyros Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox: "At home, in the postwar era, films will play a great part, not only in the rehabilitation of our returning service men and women, but also in contributing to the solution of our country's domestic problems, such as re-employment of these returning heroes. Through television and the possible advent of the third dimension in motion picture photography, a new public interest will be stimulated, which will encompass the possibilities for employment of thousands of returning service men and women who are qualified in the development of these new arts within our industry."

Joseph M. Schenck, of the 20th Century-Fox Studios: "Expansion of theatres, exchanges and the making of more pictures, all of which we have been forced to curtail, will take care of everybody at 20th Century-Fox. No one will be fired and all soldiers will receive their jobs back. Remember, a great many of our boys in service were very young, from 18-25. These boys served as office boys and clerks, and are now officers earning a great deal of money. They are now men and not boys, and will not accept or even consider the small positions they held before they entered service, now being held by women, or other young boys."

James R. Grainger

James R. Grainger, president of Republic: "While it is difficult to anticipate conditions at the close of the war, certainly every effort will be made to retain as many current jobholders as possible, and I believe that continued Republic expansion will absorb a very definite proportion of employees whose posts will be returned to service men in our employ. Another consideration is the fact that a certain number of Republic employees now in service, will probably take advantage of specialized training received in the Armed Forces, and will take positions outside the industry. This applies particularly to those who held jobs in lesser categories. In addition, a number of women are now working only for the duration, and will leave the industry at the end of the war."

Edward C. Raftery

Edward C. Raftery, president of United Artists: "At this time it is impossible to state what either domestic or foreign conditions will be in the industry at the end of the war. However, it is the company's intention to use all its resources to take care of not only employees in the services, but its current employees."

N. Peter Rathvon, president of RKO: "It is a matter which requires much thought and consideration, and I cannot say anything at this time, other than the fact that everyone will receive fair consideration, when the time comes."

Nate J. Blumberg, president of Universal: "It is our fervent hope that all our employees who are serving in the Armed Forces will return safely to their homes, families, and to us. We already have a hearty welcome for them."

W. Ray Johnston, president of Monogram: "We are short of help now, and we are going to need every returning service man plus additional manpower. Our expansion policy not only will assure every service man of his job, but will enable us to keep his replacement as well as adding new personnel."

Leon Fromkess, president of PRC: "The re-hiring of men and women who formerly worked for PRC and who are now serving their country, will present no serious problem as far as this company is concerned. The normal expansion of the organization will necessitate the hiring of not only all of our returning veteran employees, but a great many others as well."

16 More Nominated For Academy Award

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 7.—Ten films in black-and-white and six in color have been nominated for cinematography awards in the 17th annual Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences competition; and five have been nominated for the film-editing division.

Nominations in black-and-white include: "Double Indemnity," "Dragon Seed," "Gaslight," "Going My Way," "Laura," "Since You Went Away," "Lifeboat," "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "The Uninvited," "White Cliffs of Dover."

Nominations in color: "Cover Girl," "Home in Indiana," "Kismet," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "Lady in the Dark," "Wilson."

Nominated for the film-editing award: "Going My Way," "Janie," "None But the Lonely Heart," "Since You Went Away," "Wilson."

Newbury, Dollinger Head Buying Group

(*Continued from page* 1)

Lee Newbury, president; Irving Dollinger, vice-president; Harry H. Lowenstein, secretary; Dave Snaper, treasurer, and Joseph Siccardi, assistant treasurer. Members of the board of directors, in addition to the officers who are also board members, are: Jack Unger, Dr. Henry Brown, Louis Gold, Maurice Miller and Edward Lachman.

A committee consisting of Newbury, Dollinger and Miller has been appointed to interview buyers and secure office space and personnel for the new organization. Several independent New Jersey circuits booking out of New York City exchanges are included in the membership as well as some non-members of Jersey Allied.

Cohen, Whelan Meet Latin Exhibitors

Edward Cohen, 20th Century-Fox South American supervisor, was guest of honor at a recent reception given by 50 Peruvian exhibitors in Lima, Peru. From that city, Cohen proceeded to Santiago, Chile, and will wind up his trip in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he will make his headquarters. He has been meeting exhibitors, company branch managers and the press.

Leslie Whelan, 20th-Fox foreign publicity director, is accompanying Cohen part of the way to set a campaign for "Wilson" in South America.

Pathe Lab Not Closed

Although Motion Picture Laboratory Technicians Local 702 of the IATSE reported here last Friday that it had received notification that Pathe Laboratories would be closing Monday, Pathe denied here yesterday having issued such a notification and said that the laboratory was in full operation on Monday adding that approximately 75 per cent of its help worked last Friday.

HERE COME THE RAVES

"Colossal . . . Town's Sensation at Omaha Paramount." —VARIETY

"Soaring to Terrific Gross at Boston Met." —VARIETY

"Looks like a Tidal Wave at the Palace... Hit Cincinnati's High Mark since 'Going My Way'." —VARIETY

"Surefire Sandrich Musical Smash. Solid Entertainment from Start to Finish." —HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

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Original Screen Play by Allan Scott,
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Out Next Week!

Edited by
TERRY RAMSAYE

A QUIGLEY PUBLICATION

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Jan. 13		(Special Release) MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS (Color) Judy Garland Margaret O'Brien M—113 mins. (512) (Rev. 11/1/44)	ARMY WIVES Elyse Knox Rick Vallin D—67 mins. (414) (Rev.12/5/44)	(Special Reissue) THE SIGN OF THE CROSS Fredric March Claudette Colbert D—118 mins. (4432) (Rev. 8/23/44)			(Special) THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE (Goldwyn) (Color) Bob Hope Virginia Mayo C—94 mins. (551) (Rev. 10/11/44)			SHE GETS HER MAN Joan Davis William Gargan Leon Errol C—74 mins. (Rev. 1/5/45)	HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN All-Star Cast M—123 mins. (409 (Rev. 12/5/44)
Jan. 20	EADIE WAS A LADY Ann Miller Joe Besser Hal McIntyre and Orchestra C—67 mins. (6014) I LOVE A MYSTERY Jim Bannon Barton Yarborough Nina Foch D—69 mins. (6024)		ADVENTURES Of KITTY O'DAY Jean Parker D—63 mins. (420) (Rev. 12/8/44)	(Second Block) FRENCHMAN'S CREEK (Color) Joan Fontaine Arturo de Cordova D—113 mins. (4408) (Rev. 9/20/44)		GRISSLY'S MILLIONS Paul Kelly Virginia Grey D—71 mins. (409) (Rev. 1/15/45)	(Special Release) BELLE OF THE YUKON (International) (Color) Randolph Scott Gypsy Rose Lee Dinah Shore C—84 mins. (583) (Rev. 11/29/44)	(Jan. Release) KEYS OF THE KINGDOM Gregory Peck Thomas Mitchell D—137 mins. (514) (Rev. 12/13/44)	MR. EMMANUEL (British) Felix Aylmer Greta Gynt D—92 mins. (Rev. 1/4/45)	UNDER WESTERN SKIES Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. Leo Carrillo O—57 mins. (9039) (Rev. 1/3/45)	TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT Humphrey Bogart Lauren Bacall D—100 mins. (410) (Rev. 10/11/44)
Jan. 27	SAGEBRUSH HEROES Charles Starrett O—54 mins. (6204)	(Tenth Block) THE THIN MAN GOES HOME William Powell Myrna Loy C—100 mins. (513) (Rev. 11/24/44)	JADE MASK Sidney Toler D—66 mins. (401)	MINISTRY OF FEAR Ray Milland Marjorie Reynolds D—84 mins. (4410) (Rev. 10/18/44)		THE BIG SHOW-OFF Arthur Lake Dale Evans C—70 mins. (410) (Rev.1/16/45) THE TOPEKA TERROR Allan Lane Linda Stirling D—55 mins. (464) (Rev. 1/25/45)		THE FIGHTING LADY (Color) (documentary) 61 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/21/44)		THE SUSPECT Charles Laughton Ella Raines Dean Harens D—85 mins. (9010) (Rev. 12/22/44)	
Feb. 3	SING ME A SONG OF TEXAS Rosemary Lane Hal McIntyre Orch. M—66 mins. (6221)	MAIN STREET AFTER DARK Edward Arnold Selena Royle D—57 mins. (514) (Rev. 11/28/44)	FOREVER YOURS Gale Storm C. Aubrey Smith D—83 mins. (Rev. 12/13/44)	THE MAN IN HALF-MOON STREET Nils Asther Helen Walker D—92 mins. (4407) (Rev. 10/17/44)	HIS BROTHER'S GHOST O—58 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) MARKED FOR MURDER O—56 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) KID SISTER Judy Clark D (Rev. 2/2/45)		(Special Release) THE THREE CABALLEROS (Disney) (Color) M—71 mins. (591) (Rel. 12/12/44)			HERE COME THE CO-EDS Abbott and Costello Phil Spitalny and Orch. C—88 mins. (9002) (Rev. 1/31/45)	
Feb. 10	TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT Rita Hayworth Janet Blair Lee Bowman M—92 mins. (Rev. 1/25/45)	MUSIC FOR MILLIONS Margaret O'Brien Jose Iturbi M—118 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/13/44)	CISCO KID RETURNS Duncan Renaldo O—64 mins. (429)	AND NOW TOMORROW Loretta Young Alan Ladd D—85 mins. (4406) (Rev. 10/17/44)			(Third Block) WHAT A BLONDE Leon Errol Elaine Riley C—71 mins. (511) (Rev. 1/29/45)	(Feb. Release) A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN Dorothy McGuire Joan Blondell D—128 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/24/45)		HER LUCKY NIGHT Andrews Sisters Martha O'Driscoll M—63 mins. (Rev. 1/29/45)	
Feb. 17	LEAVE IT TO BLONDIE Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C	BLONDE FEVER Philip Dorn Mary Astor C—69 mins. (516) (Rev. 11/28/44)	GUN SMOKE Johnny Mack Brown O—57 mins. (455) (Rev. 1/19/45)	ONE BODY TOO MANY Jack Haley Jean Parker C—76 mins. (4409) (Rev. 10/18/44)	SPELL OF AMY NUGENT (English) Derek Farr D	GREAT STAGECOACH ROBBERY Wild Bill Elliot Bobby Blake O—56 mins. (3317)	THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE Dorothy McGuire Robert Young Herbert Marshall D—(515)	HANGOVER SQUARE Laird Cregar Linda Darnell D—77 mins. (516) (Rev. 1/17/45)		THE HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN Boris Karloff John Carradine D—71 mins. (9013) (Rev. 12/22/44) THE MUMMY'S CURSE Lon Chaney D—60 mins. (9036) (Rev. 12/22/44)	OBJECTIVE, BURMA Errol Flynn D—144 mins. (411) (Rev. 1/26/45)
Feb. 24	A SONG TO REMEMBER Paul Muni Merle Oberon Cornel Wilde D—113 mins. (Rev. 1/18/45)	BETWEEN TWO WOMEN Van Johnson Lionel Barrymore D—82 mins. (518) (Rev. 12/21/44)	DILLINGER Elisha Cook Jr. Lawrence Tierney D	(Third Block) HERE COME THE WAVES Bing Crosby Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts M—97 mins. (4411) (Rev. 12/18/44)	FOG ISLAND Lionel Atwill George Zucco D	SONG FOR MISS JULIE Shirley Ross Cheryl Walker M—69 mins. (411)	HAVING WONDERFUL CRIME George Murphy Pat O'Brien Carole Landis C—70 mins. (514)	THUNDERHEAD SON OF FLICKA Roddy McDowall Preston Foster O—78 mins. (518) (Rev. 2/1/45)		FRISCO SAL Susanna Foster Turhan Bey M—94 mins.	
Mar. 3	THE CRIME DOCTOR'S COURAGE Warner Baxter Hilary Brooke D	NOTHING BUT TROUBLE Laurel and Hardy C—69 mins. (519) (Rev. 12/5/44)		DANGEROUS PASSAGE Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4412) (Rev. 12/21/44)	HOLLYWOOD AND VINE James Ellison Wanda McKay D		PAN-AMERICANA Phillip Terry Audrey Long Robert Benchley D—84 mins. (513)	CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE Lloyd Nolan Michael O'Shea D—(519)		SUDAN (Color) Maria Montez Jon Hall Turhan Bey D	ROUGHLY SPEAKING Rosalind Russell Jack Carson D—128 mins. (412) (Rev. 1/31/45)
Mar. 10	A GUY, A GAL AND A PAL Ross Hunter Lynn Merrick Ted Donaldson D	THIS MAN'S NAVY Wallace Beery James Gleason D—98 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/4/45)		FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS (Color) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—158 mins. (4413) (Rev. 7/15/43)	THE MAN WHO WALKED ALONE Dave O'Brien Kay Aldridge O (Rev. 2/2/45)		BETRAYAL FROM THE EAST Lee Tracy Nancy Kelly D—82 mins. (512)			SEE MY LAWYER Olsen and Johnson Grace McDonald C—69 mins. (Rev. 2/6/45)	
Mar. 17	ROUGH RIDIN' JESTERS Chas. Starrett Betty Jane Graham	(Special Release) 30 SECONDS OVER TOKYO Spencer Tracy Van Johnson D—138 mins. (511) (Rev. 11/14/44)	GI HONEY-MOON Gale Storm Peter Cookson D—70 mins. (406)	PRACTICALLY YOURS Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray C—90 mins. (4414) (Rev. 12/15/44)						THE HOUSE OF FEAR Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce D I'LL REMEMBER APRIL Gloria Jean Kirby Grant M—64 mins.	HOTEL BERLIN Faye Emerson Helmut Dantine Raymond Massey D—(413)
Mar. 24	ROUGH, TOUGH AND READY Victor McLaglen Chester Morris D			DOUBLE EXPOSURE Chester Morris Nancy Kelly D—63 mins. (4415) (Rev. 12/21/44)	SHADOWS OF DEATH Buster Crabbe O (Rev. 1/25/45)		WOMAN IN THE WINDOW Edward Robinson Joan Bennett D—99 mins. (582) (Rev. 10/10/44)			SWING OUT SISTER Rod Cameron Billie Burke C—60 mins	

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama. (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily *Review Date.*

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MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

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Canadians Ask Gov't Control Of Film Trade

Blame Move on Failure To Devise Trade Code

TORONTO, Feb. 8.—In behalf of the Ontario Council of Independent Exhibitors of Canada, secretary H. L. Romberg announced today decision of the executive board of this association to seek "full government control of our business" in view of the collapse of negotiations during the past year for adoption of a code for self regulation of the film trade in Canada. "The conciliation code is dead in Canada," Romberg said.

Officially "We have been satisfied to a certain point in the regulations of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board but we feel these regulations should be extended to full government control." Romberg asserted the

(*Continued on page 6*)

MGM Has 18 Films Dubbed in Spanish

M-G-M now has 18 pictures with synchronized Spanish dialogue for release in all South and Central American countries and from now on every one of its features, shorts, newsreels and trailers will be dubbed into Spanish; other companies are expected to follow suit in the near future. This change in policy from the usual superimposed titles is a result of experimentation with "Gaslight," now in its

(*Continued on page 6*)

NBC Cites Results In Web Promotions

National Broadcasting yesterday exhibited results in its 1944 "Parade of Stars" network promotions in which film trailers in theatres were used for the first time, at a luncheon at the Hotel Waldorf Astoria, here,

(*Continued on page 6*)

No Paper Monday

***Motion Picture Daily* will not be published on Monday, Feb. 12, Abraham Lincoln's birthday and a legal holiday.**

Goldman Suit Appeal Heard

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 8.—The U. S. Court of Appeals here listened today to argument on the appeal of William Goldman against Warner Bros. and eight distribution companies in his $1,350,000 suit which had been dismissed last April by Judge William H. Kirkpatrick.

The Government, intervening in the suit, was represented by R. L. Wright, special assistant to the U. S. Attorney-General. His argument was that if Judge Kirkpatrick's decision was left standing, all Government prosecution of anti-trust suits in the film industry would be crippled and all would be endangered.

Robert Dechert, who represented William Goldman, claimed that the alleged Warners' "monopoly" had in its power to stifle pictures and affect

(*Continued on page 6*)

Walker Starts Third Term in Cabinet

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Postmaster General Frank C. Walker established a historical precedent today by becoming the first person to begin a third term as head of the postal service.

Walker, whose nomination was confirmed by the Senate Monday, was sworn in by Frank H. Ellis, chief clerk and director of personnel.

The Postmaster General succeeded

(*Continued on page 6*)

WB Pays $1,500,000 For Television Site

Hollywood, Feb. 8.—A seventeen-acre tract in the outpost section, in the hills above Hollywood, was today acquired by Warners for the erection of a television transmitter and studio. It is understood that the purchase price was about $1,500,000.

1st Red Cross Field Meet Here Feb. 20

First of the series of industry Red Cross "War Fund Week" area meetings scheduled to be held in 30 key cities will take place at a breakfast at the Waldorf Astoria, here, Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 9 o'clock, instead of Feb. 19, as originally scheduled.

This gathering, under the auspices of the New York Metropolitan area committee, Fred Schwartz, Sam Rinzler and Harry Brandt, exhibitor chairman, and Charles Reagan, distributor chairman, will be presided over by N. Peter Rathvon, national industry drive chairman. Major L. E. Thompson, national executive coordinator, will be toastmaster; David Weinstock is in charge of arrangements and tickets.

Theatre managers and exhibitors in the Metropolitan New York and New Jersey area, sales managers, salesmen, local exchange managers, publicists,

(*Continued on page 6*)

Lawyers' Approval Seen For Foreign Trade Group

The lawyers' committee which is studying the legal aspects of the projected foreign film trade association, under provisions of the Webb Act, has completed its work and it is understood that it will make a favorable report to the MPPDA foreign relations committee, headed by N. Peter Rathvon, president of RKO, it was learned yesterday. Rathvon told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that work on the organization was well along and that more definite news of its structure would be forthcoming in several weeks.

A spokesman for Warner Bros. foreign department informed MOTION PICTURE DAILY recently that the company will not participate in the new foreign trade association when it is organized.

Under the Webb Act, the new association must be registered with the Federal Trade Commission in Washington. It will permit the companies to act in concert in any part of the world in which problems affecting one or several of the companies may arise. The project was considered by the companies about four years ago but was dropped, largely because of world conditions at that time.

The subject was revived last Summer, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY exclusively at the time, and after preliminary discussion and study by the MPPDA board of directors was approved by that organization. It was then referred to a lawyers' committee which has been preparing a report and organization plan for the new association. This work is said to be complete now.

The new trade association is designed to begin functioning in the near future in preparation for the post-war period, when it is expected to reach its stage of greatest usefulness.

Rank to Ask Reciprocal U.S. Film Pacts

Will Come Here With Davis to Initiate Talks

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, Feb. 8.—J. Arthur Rank, G. Woodham-Smith of the Rank cabinet, and John Davis, managing director of Rank's Odeon Theatres, have tentatively arranged to leave here for New York about the second week of May and on their arrival they will prepare the ground for roundtable discussions in both London and Washington for postwar Anglo - American film reciprocity agreements, a move known to have British Government approval.

Although this will be the prime purpose of the trip, its ostensible purpose will be to make arrangements for the showing of "Henry V" in the U. S. and to conduct general

(*Continued on page 6*)

SAG, NLRB, SPU to Meet on 'Extras'

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 8.—Local representative of the National Labor Relations Board stated today that Feb. 22 had been set as a date for hearings in Washington on the producer-distributor's petition for reconsideration of the NLRB ruling giving the Screen Players Union jurisdiction as bargaining agent for extra players.

The Screen Actors Guild, the SPU and producers will send representa-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Bill Asks Control Of CIAA Units

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Prencinradio, Inc., and other corporations set up by the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, together with two-score other Government-owned corporations, will be brought under the direct con-

(*Continued on page 6*)

Reviewed Today

Review of "It's in the Bag" appears on page 3.

Personal Mention

TOM CONNORS, 20th Century-Fox vice-president and sales head, will return to New York today from visits to Midwest exchanges.

•

LEONIDE MOGUY, producer, and MRS. MOGUY are parents of a new daughter, born at Hollywood (Cal.) Presbyterian Hospital.

•

LT. JAMES O'SHEA, son of E. K. O'SHEA of M-G-M, arrived in Miami yesterday following a month's furlough in New York.

•

E. B. DEVRY, president of DeVry Corp., Chicago, is on a tour of Army camps to inspect their visual education equipment.

•

SAM BURGER, M-G-M special foreign representative, has returned to New York after several months in South America.

•

HARRY BRYMAN, manager in Cuba for M-G-M, has left New York for Havana following a home office visit.

•

BUDD ROGERS and MRS. ROGERS will leave for Atlantic City today to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary.

•

JAMES R. GRAINGER, Republic Pictures Corp. president, arrived in New York from the Coast yesterday.

•

ANDREW STONE, producer, will leave the Coast for New York by train next Thursday.

•

JOHN SUTHERLAND, producer, left here for Hollywood last night.

B'way Houses Beat '44 'Dimes' Totals

Broadway houses here broke all records for March of Dimes collections during the recent campaign. Radio City Music Hall nosed out the Capitol, Washington, for first place in the nation, with collections of $25,500. Washington reported $24,452. In 1944, the Hall collected $16,522.

Other collections reported are: Paramount, $17,170, against $5,492 in 1944; Loew's State, $14,402 ($7,134); Roxy, $15,659 ($14,121); Capitol, $13,221 ($12,733); Strand, $9,822 ($7,516), Rivoli, $4,490 ($3,640); Globe, $5,000 ($4,656); Gotham, $4,600 ($1,072); New York, $2,600 ($900).

To date, the Century Circuit, operating theatres in Brooklyn and Long Island, has tabulated $38,500, against $26,164 last year. The Randforce Circuit is running $10,000 ahead. Charles Skouras of National Theatres reports $511,000 to date, against $415,000 last year.

$2,000,000 for 'Venus'

A $2,000,000 budget has been set by Mary Pickford for her first production for United Artists, "One Touch of Venus," the company reported here yesterday. Miss Pickford is in Hollywood preparing the production.

Roach Is Named WB District Manager

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 8. — Ted Schlanger, zone manager here of Warner Bros. Theaters, disclosed today the appointment of John Roach as district manager for Warners' West and Northwest Philadelphia Theaters. Roach has been associated with theaters for 27 years, starting with the Stanley Company of America in 1918. He was manager of the Ardmore and prior to that was manager of the Stanley Philadelphia for four years. He succeeds John Lexey, recently deceased.

John Latimer transfers from the Waverly to the Ardmore, replacing Roach, and William Davison, former rotating manager, will manage the Waverly.

Samuel Goldwyn Sets Another Precedent

Samuel Goldwyn gave a luncheon at the Hotel Astor here yesterday for some theatre usherettes. He said it was the first one ever given for either ushers or usherettes in the entire history of the industry; but he pointed out that it was worth it—as he displayed the blondes, brunettes, redheads and whatnots to the 30-odd members of the trade and metropolitan press assembled.

Besides Goldwyn among those present were James Mulvey, Lynn Farnol, Rutgers Neilson and Robert Boehnel. The girls will act as members of the house staff at the Astor Theatre where Goldwyn's RKO Radio release "Princess and the Pirate" will open this morning.

Classics Franchisers Meet Here On Feb. 14

The newly-elected executive committee of Film Classics' franchise holders is scheduled to meet with Film Classics' executives here on Wednesday, Feb. 14, to discuss the print situation and possible setting up of national release dates on Samuel Goldwyn reissues, which the company distributes.

Executive committee consists of Al Dezel, Detroit, chairman; J. F. White, Jr., Charlotte, secretary-treasurer; Bert Stearn, Pittsburgh; Arthur Lockwood, Boston; Joseph Wolf, Indianapolis, and Sam Wheeler, Washington.

National Theatres' Meeting Continues

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 8.—Postwar Latin American expansion is among subjects still under discussion at National Theatres meetings here. They will continue through tomorrow due to an inability to finish items up for discussion.

Al Wohl to Skouras

Alfred M. Wohl, formerly an officer in the U. S. Marine Corps., and previously associated with the Wometco Circuit in Miami, is now publicity manager for the Skouras circuit's Grand Theatre in Astoria, L. I.

Rosenberg Resumes Pleasure Trip

When U. S. Rangers freed the 513 heroes of Bataan, recently, they found imprisoned with them Theodore Rosenberg, former National Theatre Supply salesman.

Rosenberg was a salesman in the New York branch under the direction of Jimmy Frank. After three years in this post, he took a trip to Manila — 'for pleasure.' But the Nips nipped him and spoiled his pleasure.

Services Tomorrow For Clair Hague

Funeral services will be held at noon tomorrow in Toronto for Clair Hague, 60 years old, Universal's Canadian representative, who died of pneumonia there late Wednesday.

Hague had been associated with Universal in Canada continuously for the past 31 years. Prior to joining Universal he was with Allen Amusement Co. and Klein Optical Co. He served as chairman of the executive committee of the Canada Picture Pioneers. His wife, two daughters and a son survive.

Blumenstock Names Wood and Karsch

Mort Blumenstock, Eastern director of advertising-publicity for Warner Bros., has assigned George Wood and Daniel Karsch to the field public relations staff. Wood was formerly district manager of St. Louis Amusement Co. during its operation by Warners and now returns to the company for the St. Louis territory. After two and a half years in the Army, Karsch, an advertising-radio man, will work in the home office before a regional assignment.

Cleveland Theatres Return to Full Week

CLEVELAND, Feb. 8. — Amusement places, including theatres here, will not repeat their Monday closing next week but will return to regular operating schedules as a result of improved fuel conditions and economies effected by cautious use of fuel.

Jungmeyer to PRC

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 8. — Jack Jungmeyer of the editorial staff of *Daily Variety* for the past several years, has been signed by Leon Fromkess as story editor of PRC. He succeeds Jack Grant, who recently was appointed associate producer by Fromkess.

Conn. Allied to Meet

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 8.—Allied Theatre Owners of Connecticut will hold its first luncheon-meeting of the year, Feb. 13, here, with Dr. J. B. Fishman presiding. Maxwell Alderman, executive secretary, will report on the recent national Allied meeting in Columbus.

Close All or Part Time on Monday

All distributor home offices, except PRC's and Republic's, with the latter still undetermined, will close all or half-a-day on Monday. Closing all day will be: Columbia, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and United Artists; closed half-a-day will be: Loew-M-G-M, Paramount, Monogram, Universal, Warners and the MPPDA.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Showplace of the Nation • Rockefeller Center
"A SONG TO REMEMBER"
PAUL MUNI • MERLE OBERON
Introducing CORNEL WILDE
A Columbia Picture In TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN JOAN DAVIS WM. GARGAN 'SHE GETS HER MAN'
IN PERSON EARL CARROLL'S 'VANITIES OF 1945'

Paramount presents Ray Milland IN "MINISTRY of FEAR"
in Person Johnny Long and his Orchestra LOUIS JORDAN and his FAMOUS TYMPANY FIVE
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett
Raymond Massey
"Woman in the Window"
AN INTERNATIONAL PICTURE
—A RKO RELEASE

SAMUEL GOLDWYN Presents
BOB HOPE
'THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE'
in Technicolor
Continuous Doors open 9:30 A. M.
ASTOR Broadway & 45th Street
Popular Prices • Midnight Show

WALT DISNEY'S
'The THREE CABALLEROS'
in TECHNICOLOR
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
NOW - - - Brandt's GLOBE

LAIRD CREGAR
LINDA DARNELL
GEORGE SANDERS
HANGOVER SQUARE
A 20th CENTURY-FOX PICTURE
On Stage! MILTON BERLE AND GALA LAUGH REVUE!
ROXY 7th AVE. & 50th ST.

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Mexicans Hit U. S. Firms for 30% Rise

Mexico City, Feb. 8.—All American companies operating in Mexico are again having periodical labor trouble, demands for a pay hike. The only new aspect about this one is that the demand is an unusually big one—30 per cent. The employees say that their employers are making more money because theatre admittances are at a new high.

The employees have given the companies until April 3 to answer.

Little Production in So. America: Bryman

MIAMI, Feb. 8.—"Mexico and the Argentine are the largest film producing countries in South America; otherwise little progress has been made in the industry south of the border," Harry Bryman, M-G-M Havana manager, stated on leaving here for his return to headquarters in Havana, from New York, on the Cuba Clipper.

Films made in the United States for Spanish-speaking people should be extremely popular; films with serious plots are most popular in Cuba, he declared.

Raw Stock Complaint By Mexican Producer

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 8.—The National Committee on Cinematographic Affairs, representing the Government, motion picture employers and labor, which has just rationed Mexico's supply of raw stock among selected producers, is now busy considering complaints against the apportionment by other producers.

The committee is also trying to determine how it can supply raw stock for prints for 36 of last year's films.

Siegel Returning to Para. Studio April 30

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 8.—Sol C. Siegel will rejoin Paramount in an executive administrative post under Henry Ginsberg April 30, following completion of "Kiss and Tell," now in production, which Siegel is producing in association with George Abbott and F. Hugh Herbert for Columbia.

Siegel was a Paramount producer from 1941 to the middle of 1944.

Watch U. A. releases bearing G.C.F. Presents

Review

"It's in the Bag"

(Jack Skirball-United Artists)

ESPECIALLY for the legions of radio fans, Jack H. Skirball's "It's in the Bag" offers top-notch comedy entertainment, provided by Fred Allen, Jack Benny, Jerry Colonna and Minerva Pious (Mrs. Nussbaum), utilizing familiar material with which they have become identified on the airlanes. This merry madcap farce, combining the popular elements of mystery and romance, is built around a slender story frame which serves adequately to keep the action rolling at a fast and hilarious clip, and should register big. To enhance the prestige of the picture and to augment its box office possibilities, Skirball had added William Bendix, with Don Ameche, Rudy Vallee and Victor Moore as part of a singing quartet with Allen. The cast also includes Binnie Barnes, Robert Benchley, John Carradine, William Terry and Sidney Toler in the main body of the story, which is completely dominated by Allen. It all adds up to a swell 87 minutes of rollicking, mirth-provoking film fare which should draw healthy box office returns if the reaction of a mid-week audience at a "sneak" preview at Loew's Sheridan in New York can be used as a barometer.

Formality is dropped in the very first frame when Allen appears and proceeds to upset the traditional presentation of screen credits by pointing out that most of the cast are relatives of the producer and could easily be dispensed with. The story offers Allen as Fred Floogle, proprietor of a flea circus, who learns through newspapers that he has inherited $12,000,000 from an eccentric grand-uncle who has met death suddenly under mysterious circumstances. Without waiting to collect the money, Allen, his wife, Miss Barnes; his daughter, Gloria Pope, and his son, Dickie Tyler, start to splurge, only to discover that the entire fortune had been dissipated by his uncle's crooked associates, leaving but five antique chairs. His widely-heralded "good fortune" has provided Allen with unlimited credit, however, and among other things he is able to put Benchley, a four-flushing insect exterminator, whose son is in love with Allen's daughter, in his place. Allen is suspected of murdering his uncle in the additional complications which ensue, with the remainder of the action dealing with the search for the five chairs which Allen's young son has disposed of through an auctioneer.

Establishing the footage is the favorite Allen routine of going to the movies where there are supposed to be plenty of seats inside; the constantly emphasized Benny parsimoniousness and Mrs. Nussbaum's quaint conversations. Bendix's role is that of a racketeer with a mouse-like disposition. But this is a Fred Allen film from start to finish.

Richard Wallace's direction succeeds in preventing the action from lapsing into the ridiculous. The screen treatment is by Lewis R. Foster and Allen; the photoplay by Morrie Ryskind and the screenplay by Jay Dratler and Alma Reville. Skirball has provided an attractive film, production-wise; Walter Batchelor was associate producer. "It's in the Bag" is definitely an unusual comedy and exhibitors will find plenty of promotional angles in it to attract the customers.

Running time, 87 minutes. General classification. No release date set.

MILTON LIVINGSTON

Dallas Red Cross Meet on Feb. 25

DALLAS, Feb. 8.—A luncheon-meeting of distributors and exhibitors to plan participation in the forthcoming Red Cross Drive has been announced for Sunday, Feb. 25, at the Hotel Adolphus by Cecil House, Dallas branch manager of 20th Century-Fox, who is Texas distributor chairman for the drive.

Tom Connors, representing Gradwell Sears, national distributor chairman of the War Activities, and R. J. O'Donnell of Interstate, Southwestern exhibitor chairman, will be the chief speakers at the luncheon. O'Donnell's co-chairmen are Don Douglas of Robb and Rowley, Dallas, and Henry Reeve, Menard (Tex.) exhibitor. Phil Longdon, district manager of 20th Century-Fox is district supervisor for the distributor group of WAC in Texas, Oklahoma and Tennessee. Local Red Cross officials have been asked to attend the meeting.

To Screen Award Films

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 8.—The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will begin screenings of the 20 pictures represented in the nominations for the Academy awards at the Marquis Theatre here starting Feb. 11 and continuing through Feb. 25 with two showings of each film.

Decorators' Ruling By WLB Tomorrow

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 8.—The first War Labor Board hearing in the jurisdictional dispute between the Set Decorators Union, Local 1421, and the IATSE, responsible for the studio walkout by the decorators last fall, ended indecisively today after the IATSE took the position that it had not asked for arbitration.

Arbitrator Thomas Tongue adjourned the sessions until Saturday, when he will rule on the extent to which the WLB can act in the matter.

AMPA Seeks the Roxy

The Associated Motion Picture Advertisers held a luncheon-meeting yesterday at the Hickory House here, at which it was disclosed that efforts are being made to secure the Roxy Theatre for a benefit for the Motion Picture Relief Fund. AMPA president Martin Starr also told the gathering that the organization would hold no big meetings or lunches until the war in Europe is over.

Nizer Book on Air

"What to do with Germany," book by Louis Nizer, industry attorney, has been selected by Council on Books in Wartime, Inc., for dramatization on the Words at War program over NBC, 11:30 p.m., next Tuesday.

'Liberty' Available For War Promotions

The New York War Activities Committee, which sponsored and erected the 'Statue of Liberty' in Times Square, here, for the Sixth War Loan, has named a special committee to take charge of its maintenance and use. At a meeting, here, presided over by chairman Max Cohen and attended by Bob Shapiro, Zeb Epstein and Harry Mandel, it was decided that all inquiries made to anyone in the industry concerning the use of the Statue were to be referred to Cohen for action, and that nothing of any commercial nature would be considered.

The city, through Edgar Nathan, Borough President of Manhattan, has given permission for the replica of the Statue to remain standing through the coming Seventh War Loan. During March, the Red Cross War Fund drive will utilize the facilities of the Statue.

M-G-M's Field Men Still Come and Go

Eight more M-G-M men from the field will visit New York for a week starting Monday; four are exploitation representatives, the others are office managers.

Field promotion men due are: E. B. Coleman, Dallas; Irving Waterstreet, St. Louis; Bernie Evens, Kansas City; Ed Gardiner, Oklahoma City. The office managers are: John Coyne, Cleveland; Walter Bennin, Milwaukee; Joseph Farrow, Philadelphia; Gil Becker, Detroit.

Leaving for home territories in a few days, after visiting the home office for the past week, are: Field exploiteers William Bishop, Chicago; Louis Orlove, Milwaukee; Norman W. Pyle, Minneapolis; and office managers Joe Markowitz, Los Angeles; Fred Armington, Des Moines; W. W. Spruce, Dallas.

Houlihan Succeeds Dare

ALBANY, Feb. 8.—Benny Dare, 20th Century-Fox salesman, has retired and been succeeded by Dan. R. Houlihan, until now head booker and office manager. Dare had been with the company for 20 years, beginning in Denver. Houlihan joined 20th-Fox in 1934.

Colony Theatre Appeals

R. J. Miller, operating the Colony Theatre, McHenry, Ill., has filed an appeal on the dismissal of his combination clearance, some-run complaint by William A. McSwain, arbitrator in the Chicago tribunal, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

Schenck to Produce

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 8.—Aubrey Schenck, long an executive assistant to Spyros Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president, will become a 20th producer. His first will be "Shock," based on Albert Demond's story.

Bogeaus Joins SIMPP

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 8.—Benedict Bogeaus, independent producer releasing through United Artists, was today elected to membership in the Society of Independent M. P. Producers.

TIME
magazine
DICK
POWELL · TREVOR
CLAIRE
Murder, My S
(Tradeshown and reviewed as "Farewell My
OTTO KRUGER · MIKE MAZURKI · MILES MANDER · DOUGLAS WALTON ·
Produced by Adrian Scott · Directed by Edward Dmytryk
Screen Play by John Paxton

"**As good** a piece of melodramatic 20-minute-egg sentimentality as the famous 'Double Indemnity'. In some ways it is even more likeable, for though it is far less tidy, it is more vigorous and less slick, more resourcefully photographed and even more successfully cast. . . .

"**It handles** Chandler's extremely cinemadaptable story so well that, if anything, it improves it in the retelling. It is the story of an indigent Los Angeles private detective (Dick Powell) who, for the sake of a few spare dollars, helps a gigantic imbecile named Moose Malloy (Mike Mazurki) to hunt down the girl he loved when he went to jail. In the course of the quest the detective interviews a wonderful, boozy old floozy (Esther Howard) who could bring Hogarth up to date. Before long he finds himself suspected of murder and hired by several conflicting sides in a fight whose meaning and dimension he only gradually finds out. It involves invaluable jade, the slaughter of a gigolo, a psychoanalytic theosophist (Otto Kruger), a charlatan (Ralf Harolde), an aging multimillionaire (Miles Mander) his young wife (Claire Trevor), and her angry stepdaughter (Anne Shirley). The wife treats the shabby detective with brazen cozyness, the theosophist slams him across the chops with a pistol, the charlatan pumps him full of dope, the stepdaughter feeds him alternate Scotch and scorn, and the elderly, heartless-seeming nabob is in savagely at the climactic kill. The hyperpituitary ex-convict, incidentally, finds his lost lovely at last.

"'**Murder, My Sweet**' is done to a farethee-well by everybody from the costumer to the excellent cast. Sets that should look threadbare have seldom looked so rat-ridden. The neon sign outside a crummy dive is almost too properly defective. There is an enthusiastic appetite for everything possibly sinister about a big city and its people. The makers of the film go farther with their realism: they try to make sensations and states of mind visual. Best: the drug sequence, presenting through double exposure an indecipherable web of confusion and dreamlike memory."

ays:

SIGN THAT PLEDGE CARD!
RED CROSS DRIVE — MARCH 15-21

Canadians Ask Gov't Control for Films

(Continued from page 1)

association had gone on record in favor of retention of the Wartime Prices Board after the war and for the strict interpretation of the board's regulations governing rental contracts indefinitely adding, "we feel a lot of exhibitors are paying more for films than they should under the law and this practice should stop."

The situation has reached a point where actual survival of independents was at stake, Romberg said. He pointed out that the Ontario Council had made a sincere effort to bring about self-regulation of the film business on a satisfactory basis but said this had been fruitless.

Canadian independents had called off a conference with federal officials at Ottawa more than a year ago to urge Government action when it looked like an internal solution of trade problems was possible but, he said, the trade conference had failed to bring about adoption of the conciliation plan. A meeting of independents was called for next week in Toronto and Romberg said a delegation would wait upon J. R. Croft, administrator of services of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board for presentation of its plea.

M-G-M Has 18 Films Dubbed In Spanish

(Continued from page 1)

eighth week at the Metropolitan, Mexico City, Sam Burger, special traveling representative for M-G-M, who has just returned from a four-month trip to South America, discloses. In revealing the Spanish-speaking picture decision, he pointed out that "Gaslight" is playing to a greater number of people than had ever witnessed an M-G-M feature before in that country.

He attributed this to a much greater entertainment value, since thousands who had never seen an American film before, or who found subtitles tedious or impossible to read, are now attending the showing of "Gaslight." "Dragon Seed" has also opened in Mexico City with the same results. Burger will leave again for South America in the near future.

Aronson Leaving NSS

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 8.—A. J. Aronson, West Coast district manager for National Screen Service, will resign upon the expiration of his contract, on March 29. George Dembow, NSS vice-president, presently visiting here, will name a successor to Aronson later.

Watch U. A. releases bearing G.C.F. Presents

Bill Asks Control Of CIAA Units

(Continued from page 1)

trol of Congress and the Budget Bureau if sufficient support can be mustered for legislation which has been introduced in the Senate by Senators Byrd of Virginia, and Butler of Nebraska, and is to be sponsored in the House by Representative Case of South Dakota. Prencinradio (cin for cinema) is the parent of all of the CIAA's press, motion picture and radio ramifications.

These corporations, which now operate independently of all of the controls exercised over other branches of the Government, would be required to prepare annual budgets, as do other agencies, and justify them to the Budget Bureau before their submission to Congress, showing, among other things, the borrowing which the corporation proposes to do and the amount of Government capital funds which are to be returned to the Treasury during the fiscal year.

No corporation could transact any business not authorized by Congress or expend any funds except in the amounts authorized and made available by Congress. It is also provided that no more such corporations are to be created except by direct Congressional action or pursuant to an act of Congress specifically authorizing them.

The operation of Government corporations has been under fire for the past year, and last session the Byrd committee made an investigation which led to a report to the Senate showing that many of them are subject to no accounting or control by the Budget Bureau of other agency.

Goldman Case Appeal Is Heard by Court

(Continued from page 1)

the public interest. He cited the case of "Citizen Kane" which was allegedly held up by Warners and was not shown for a long time.

Judge Joseph J. Proskauer, who represented Warners, denied a monopoly. He claimed that Goldman took the Erlanger to gamble on a lawsuit. He also denied that pictures were a public utility, saying that they were purely a public entertainment.

Both sides handed in briefs and the case was taken under advisement.

1st Red Cross Field Meet Here Feb. 20

(Continued from page 1)

home office executives, and members of the New York and national committees will be present. Also present will be members of the nine teams of industry leaders who, after the New York breakfast, will depart for other cities where similar meetings have been arranged and at which they will be the principal speakers.

Marlowe to Aid Blue

Harvey Marlowe, television producer, has been engaged by the Blue Network as a consultant producer for the forthcoming weekly television presentation of "On Stage Everybody" over the DuMont facilities, starting Feb. 27, according to Hubbell Robinson, Blue web official.

'Dorian Gray' Tradeshow

M-G-M will hold tradeshowings of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" in Los Angeles and New York on Feb. 23.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Feb. 8

"KNAVE OF DIAMONDS," story of a gentleman burglar, has been purchased by Universal from Percy Marks, its author. The story has been assigned to Joan Harrison to produce. . . . Peggy Knudson, stage-radio star, has been signed to a long-term Warner contract. . . . William Beaudine has been signed to direct "Come Out Fighting," Monogram's next East Side Kids picture.

•

Audrey Totter has been selected for the second feminine lead in M-G-M's "Dangerous Partners." . . . Charles Drake has been signed by Hal Wallis for one of the male leads in "You Came Along," currently in work at Paramount. . . . Universal has exercised its option on the services of Lois Collier and Martha O'Driscoll.

•

"Payment Due," original psychological drama by Bert Hodgson, has been purchased by the King brothers, Monogram producers. . . . Robert Scott has had his Columbia contract extended. . . . Ralph Huston, formerly assistant publicity director for Cagney Productions, has joined the Warner publicity department. . . . Edmund Glover and Bruce Edward have been assigned parts in RKO's "First Man Into Tokyo," which Gordon Douglas is directing.

SAG, NLRB, SPU to Meet on 'Extras'

(Continued from page 1)

tives to present their views regarding the overlapping jurisdiction, which last week caused a one day strike. Executive secretary Jack Dales and attorney William Burger will represent SAG.

The fight between the unions has placed the studios in the middle; definition of the term extra player and bit player is at stake. The SPU claims this means stunt performers and non-speaking parts as well, while SAG insists these players belong to its group.

The producers issued a statement calling the action of the NLRB "gratifying." SPU declined to comment for the present. Later in the day it filed a complaint with the local office of the NLRB, charging the producers with "unfair labor practices."

Walker Starts Third Term in Cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

James A. Farley in September, 1940, and was renominated by President Roosevelt for a second term in 1941. He was again named head of the Department following the President's fourth inauguration, spiking reports that Roosevelt planned to make major changes in his Cabinet. This is the only Cabinet post for which the term of office is fixed by law.

Rank Will Ask for Reciprocal Pacts

(Continued from page 1)

meetings with the American industry.

Lord Beaverbrook, leading British newspaper publisher, who is a member of the Government and a confidant of Prime Minister Churchill, has privately approached Rank, it is understood, suggesting that they get together to make a series of films putting the British Empire "on the map." Conversations to this end are understood to be proceeding "behind the scenes."

Beaverbrook was at one time the principal owner of Provincial Cinematograph Theatres and an interested theatre operator, and is understood to be desirous of returning to the film industry. The presumption that Beaverbrook is acting with a complete "Churchillian blessing" is confirmed by the highest authoritative sources.

NBC Cites Results In Web Promotions

(Continued from page 1)

attended by over 400 advertising executives, program sponsors, network executives and representatives of the press. A feature of the exhibit, described by Charles P. Hammond, NBC director of advertising and promotion, was the screening of the trailers in 726 theatres in 111 station cities with a population of 22,000,000. Keynote of the four trailers, which used shots of 39 NBC radio and film stars over a period of eight weeks. In a foreword to the trailers, Ed Herlihy, NBC announcer, pointed out that the film industry had heretofore turned to radio to promote its stars and personalities and now, for the first time, radio had turned to the nation's theatres on a wide scale to promote its stars and air shows.

Hammond pointed out that NBC's survey on the effectiveness of the theatre promotions disclosed that 70 per cent of the theatre audiences seeing the trailers identified the names of the stars and NBC programs and the local station's call letters. Roy C. Witmer, NBC vice-president in charge of sales, was another speaker at the luncheon.

The exhibit will be shown at the Palmer House, Chicago, Feb. 21, and at the Beverly Hills Hotel, Beverly Hills, Cal., on April 9.

More Film Companies Buy Air Time on WJZ

RKO Radio, 20th Century-Fox and Samuel Goldwyn Productions are the latest purchasers of air time on WJZ, New York outlet of the Blue Network, for film promotions.

RKO, through Foote, Cone and Belding, bought eight weekly station-break announcements for four weeks, in addition to time for "The Woman in the Window"; 20th Century-Fox, through Kayton-Spiero, bought two station-break announcements for 41 weeks; Goldwyn is using nine station breaks, purchased through Donohue and Coe, to promote "Princess and the Pirate."

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- MAJOR GLENN MILLER—FAVORITE SWEET BAND
- SPIKE JONES—FAVORITE CORN BAND
- DINAH SHORE—FAVORITE GIRL SINGER
- FRANK SINATRA—FAVORITE MALE SINGER

The March issue of one of America's most popular screen magazines acclaims America's most popular recording stars. From every corner of America—from large cities and small villages, wherever you find enthusiastic, young-minded people—the votes came in crowning these recording stars as the nation's top favorites.

Presentations of specially designed miniature gold discs are being made currently in Hollywood, Chicago, and New York.

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RED CROSS DRIVE — MARCH 15-21

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 30 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1945 TEN CENTS

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CIAA Plans To Continue Its Film Unit

Abandons Transferring Activity to Hemisphere

Film activities of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs will continue under its present set-up and will not be transferred to Hemisphere Films, Wallace K. Harrison, acting CIAA head told MOTION PICTURE DAILY in New York.

It had been reported on several occasions that the Museum of Modern Art would take over the Central and South American non-commercial film activities of the Coordinator's office under the Hemisphere set-up but Harrison pointed out that the idea had been abandoned due to a lack of interest on the part of the people, identities undisclosed, whom Hemisphere was trying to interest in the project.

Selznick 10 Years An Independent

March will mark the 10th anniversary of David O. Selznick as an independent producer under the trademark of Selznick International Pictures, and the event will be observed with a special program of activities and the national release of his "I'll Be Seeing You" and "Spellbound."

David O. Selznick

The anniversary will take on the aspects of a triple event, since it will commemorate the 22nd year in production of Selznick, and the 32nd anniversary of

(*Continued on page* 10)

Display Lighting Is Banned by WPB

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The War Production Board has formally amended the 'brownout' order to include display advertising and promotional lighting in theatre and other

(*Continued on page* 5)

McCormick, Mandel Name 31 Red Cross Campaign Publicists

S. Barret McCormick and Harry Mandel, national publicity directors for the industry's 1945 Red Cross 'War Fund Week,' which will be observed in theatres throughout the U. S., Alaska, Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands, March 15-21, have appointed exchange area public relations chairmen for the drive, as follows:

Albany, Charles Smakwitz; Atlanta, Bill Brady; Boston, Harry Browning; Buffalo, Charles Taylor; Charlotte, Roy Smart; Chicago, W. K. Hollander; Cincinnati, Nate Wise; Cleveland, E. J. Fisher; Dallas, Ray Beall; Denver, Harold Rice; Des Moines, Dale McFarland; Detroit, Alice Gorham; Indianapolis, Ken Collins; Kansas City, Jerry Zigmond.

Also: Los Angeles, Seymour Peiser;

(*Continued on page* 10)

10% Chicago Staff Cuts

CHICAGO, Feb. 12.—Because Chicago is listed as a critical labor area, the Regional War Manpower Commission here has ordered non-essential industries, including all theatres in this area, to reduce their staffs by five per cent, starting Thursday and another five percent by March 15. The ruling affects employers with 10 or more employees and involves males only.

Employees 'laid off' so that they may accept defense jobs will retain their seniority rights and must be given their original positions back when their services in war plants are no longer needed, the WMC ruling states.

Product Shortage Pinches Circuits

Chicago, Feb. 12. — The shortage of product in neighborhood houses is finally compelling leading theatre circuits to 'plug' booking gaps with re-issues. Heretofore, independent operators have been almost exclusive buyers of the old product.

Warners has let the bars down for re-issues in its neighborhoods, including the Hamilton, Oakland and Grove. Balaban and Katz is expected to adopt a similar plan.

FPC-Spencer Set Expansion Plans

ST. JOHN, N. B., Feb. 12.—First new postwar theatres to be erected by the F. G. Spencer circuit, in which Famous Players-Canadian recently bought a substantial interest, will be located at Charlottetown, Amherst and Campbelltown, according to F. G. Spencer, president of the circuit, and J. J. Fitzgibbons, head of FP-C. The Spencer company has been operating in these localities since its inception many years ago.

Spencer, who continues to direct the circuit's activities, started his career as a concert impresario more than 30 years ago and established his first film houses at Summerside, Pictou and Charlottetown, following shortly with the establishment of the old Unique here on the site of the present Strand. Through the years the company has expanded to other centers in the Maritime provinces and now numbers 16 theatres.

Wide Spencer expansion is scheduled for the postwar, and FP-C, independently, will build a large new house here on a King Square site acquired some time ago.

Chinese Audience Riots as Sound System Breaks Down; Patron Slain

That Chinese audiences demand their entertainment, especially films, without interruption and won't take no for an answer, is clearly indicated by the following cable, received by Al Daff, vice-president of Universal International, from Chungking, China: "'Arabian Nights' opened for the second-run season at the Roxy Theatre in Chengtu, China. Business was so good that the theatre was packed. Unfortunately the sound system broke down during the course of the screening and the audience rioted. During the fight, one of the operating room staff fired a pistol shot and killed one of the audience. The theatre was closed for a few days."

As an afterthought, the cable observed that the projection room operator was executed by the military.

No Relief on 285 Print Limit Is Seen

OCR Rejects ITOA Plea; Reassures Subsequents

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Declaring that the cut in raw stock allocations has been so light that its effect upon even subsequent-run exhibitors can be but "inconsequential," War Production Boad officials today indicated that no action will be taken on the protest of the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York against the limitation of prints to a maximum of 285 for any feature.

The problem of the subsequent-run houses was discussed by Max A. Cohen, chairman of the association's film committee, with Stanley B. Adams, director of the Consumers' Durable Goods division, Friday at a

(*Continued on page* 5)

12 Millions for 10 Planned by Lesser

During the next two or three years Sol Lesser plans to make 10 pictures at a total cost of $12,000,000. The stories for all are ready, but how many actually will be made will depend on the amount of raw stock he can get, Lesser disclosed here, adding: "I understand that an average will be taken on what each producer has done during the past four years, and my average has been two a year."

Sol Lesser

Lesser said that the top production

(*Continued on page* 5)

Buchanan Named UA Publicity Chief

Barry Buchanan, for the past two years special coordinator between the industry and the U. S. Treasury, has been engaged as director of advertising-publicity for United Artists,

(*Continued on page* 5)

Personal Mention

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, M-G-M vice-president and general sales manager, returned to New York yesterday from Florida.

•

W. A. SCULLY, Universal vice-president and general sales manager, and MAURICE BERGMAN, Eastern advertising and publicity director, have returned to New York from the Coast.

•

TOM CONNORS, 20th Century-Fox vice-president in charge of sales, has left New York for New Haven, Boston and Albany. He will return Thursday.

•

ROBERTO D. SOCAS, PRC foreign sales manager, and VICTOR SAMAAN, near East distributor, have left the Coast for New York.

•

I. F. DOLID, supervisor of Warner exchanges, has returned to New York, from a visit to Southern and South-western branches.

•

FLORENCE MACKLER, secretary to WALTER GOULD, United Artists foreign manager, has left for a month's vacation in Miami.

•

LEON D. NETTER, in charge of Southern theatres for Paramount, and M. F. GOWTHORPE have returned from a Southern trip.

•

A. A. HIGGINBOTHAM, Paramount theatre associate with E. V. RICHARDS in Baton Rouge, La., has been visiting in New York.

•

JULES J. RUBENS, general manager of Publix-Great States Circuit, Chicago, is vacationing in Florida.

•

WILLIAM GLEICHER of M-G-M's sales department returned to New York yesterday from Boston.

•

A. A. SCHUBART, RKO manager of exchange operations, has returned to New York from the Coast.

•

OSCAR A. DOOB, Loew's Theatres advertising and publicity head, is in Miami on vacation.

•

MARVIN SCHENCK, M-G-M Eastern talent head, returned to New York yesterday from the Coast.

•

JOE ROBERTS, of Vanguard's publicity staff, has returned to New York from Cleveland.

•

JOHN E. FLYNN, M-G-M Western sales manager, arrived in New York yesterday from Chicago.

•

EDWARD HINCHEY of the Warner sales department is in Miami from New York.

•

SPYROS SKOURAS left Hollywood by train for New York yesterday.

•

H. J. YATES will entrain from Hollywood for New York on Thursday.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

THE I. T. O. A. of New York, in protesting against the War Production Board's recent order establishing the maximum number of release prints on any one feature at 285 (subject to exception), may be doing a bit of needless crying before it's hurt, just as a number of independent producers did on the subject of obtaining their individual raw stock quotas direct from WPB rather than from their distributors.

It is true, if nevertheless apart from the point, that there is no known case of an independent producer having been injured under the former method of allocating raw stock to distribution companies, which made stock available to independent producers. Samuel Goldwyn, as a matter of fact, stated that the news that his raw stock requirements were being fulfilled by RKO was a surprise to him when he first heard it. That is testimony that his needs were so well taken care of by the distribution company that Goldwyn had never had occasion to think of his raw stock supply as a problem or the past method of allocation as unsatisfactory. When Goldwyn learned that he was not receiving his raw stock through a WPB quota direct to him, he joined with other independent producers in a petition that they be given a clear title to their own quotas.

That was the sole point involved in their protest and petition to WPB and it is understandable. Independents are individualists.

However, their protests were needless because Stanley Adams, head of WPB's Consumers Durable Goods Division, had perceived earlier that the past procedure in allocating raw stock to the distribution branch of the industry, rather than to the production branch, was contrary to WPB policy established over three years ago in its dealings with other industries. That policy, Adams told MOTION PICTURE DAILY, he had decided to apply to this industry before he had heard of the independent producers' dissatisfaction.

•

The question now arises, is the independent exhibitor likely to be hurt by the 285-print limitation any more than the independent producer was by the former procedure of allocating raw stock to distribution?

There was only one reason for placing a ceiling on release prints. That was the undeniably necessary one of preventing waste of stock and thereby aiding in increasing supplies on hand. To illustrate this, Adams cited the case of one of last year's well known feature pictures for which its distributor ordered 400 release prints. The picture did not prove to be the strong box-office attraction the company had anticipated it would be. In consequence, that picture (which, incidentally, Adams identified by its title) consumed only 250 prints by the time it was played out. The result was a net wastage of 150 prints of 9,000-foot length each, or a total of 1,350,000 feet of raw stock wasted on one picture.

•

While it is true that distributors heretofore have ordered 350 to 400 prints ("Going My Way," for example, is said to have consumed 400, with its playing possibilities still far from exhausted), the bulk of such orders are said to have been few and far between, for rare, exceptional grossers, or as a result of misjudging a picture's possibilities in advance, as in the case cited above. A reasonable average print order on better product is estimated by some to be about 300 or 325, and much less on product of secondary importance. That would be a maximum reduction, as a result of the 285-print limit, of 40 prints on the average. With 32 distribution centers in the country, the reduction means that only about one print would be taken from each. It is hard to believe that that would spell catastrophe for subsequent runs.

Basically, because of the exception to the 285-print limit which WPB will allow, the new order makes obsolescence of a picture the ruling test. If a picture has played out its reasonable possibilities, no more than 285 prints will be authorized. And if its reasonable possibilities have been played out, who is to be hurt thereafter?

It is reasonable to assume that, despite protest from I. T. O. A. or any other organization, the 285-print limit is destined to receive a trial. WPB officials are convinced it is worth trying. If it proves unworkable, it is our prediction that WPB will be quick to concede it and quick to correct it.

NEW YORK THEATRES

INSIDE THE RACKETS!
Mobland's Gats Blaze Again!
1st N. Y. Showing
"THE CHICAGO KID"
A Republic Picture
with
DONALD BARRY
OTTO KRUGER
TOM POWERS
REPUBLIC THEATRE
B'way, Bet. 51st & 52nd Streets

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Showplace of the Nation • Rockefeller Center
"A SONG TO REMEMBER"
PAUL MUNI • MERLE OBERON
Introducing CORNEL WILDE
A Columbia Picture in TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
JOAN DAVIS
WM. GARGAN
'SHE GETS HER MAN'
IN PERSON
EARL CARROLL'S 'VANITIES OF 1945'

Paramount presents
Ray Milland
IN
"MINISTRY of FEAR"
in Person
Johnny Long
and his Orchestra
LOUIS JORDAN
and his
FAMOUS TYMPANY FIVE
PARAMOUNT

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett
Raymond Massey
"Woman in the Window"
AN INTERNATIONAL PICTURE
—A RKO RELEASE

SAMUEL GOLDWYN Presents
BOB HOPE
'THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE'
in Technicolor
Continuous Doors open 9:30 A.M.
ASTOR
Broadway & 45th Street
Popular Prices
Midnight Show

WALT DISNEY'S
'The THREE CABALLEROS'
in TECHNICOLOR
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
NOW - - - Brandt's GLOBE

Sears Hospitalized

Gradwell L. Sears, United Artists vice-president and distribution head, has entered New York Hospital for a check up and rest. It is expected he will be away from his office for about six weeks.

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M-G-M's

MUSIC FOR MILLIONS

A GRAND STORY OF PEOPLE YOU'LL LOVE

"Everybody's favorite actress" —WINCHELL

"Best juvenile performance" —FILM DAILY POLL

Top honors of the year from all critics!

JOSE ITURBI
A NEW NOTE IN MOVIES
...Playing music for heartstrings—great music—gay music

Lovely
JUNE ALLYSON
with
STARS IN HER EYES!
(Sh! She's having a baby)

JIMMY DURANTE
was never greater, never funnier! He's Margaret's Uncle Umbriago!

BIGGEST LITTLE STAR—M★G★M's MARGARET O'BRIEN

Isn't it wonderful that she follows "Meet Me in St. Louis" with another Great Film

"MUSIC FOR MILLIONS"!

MARGARET O'BRIEN · JOSE ITURBI · JIMMY DURANTE · JUNE ALLYSON
in **"MUSIC FOR MILLIONS"**
with
MARSHA HUNT · HUGH HERBERT · HARRY DAVENPORT · MARIE WILSON · LARRY ADLER

Original Screen Play by Myles Connolly
A HENRY KOSTER PRODUCTION
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture
Directed by HENRY KOSTER
Produced by JOE PASTERNAK

★

1924 1945
21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP
MGM

Red Cross War Fund Week—March 15-21

LITHO U.S.A.

Display Lighting Is Banned by WPB

(Continued from page 1)

arcades, transportation terminals and similar locations. It was the original intention of the board to include such lighting in its first order, but inquiries coming into Washington indicate that many persons did not read the requirements that way.

Under the amended order, a theatre having an entrance from an arcade, building lobby or other passage used by the public, must treat that entrance as though it were from the street.

WMC Establishes Coal Manpower Priorities

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Responding to an appeal by Solid Fuels Administration, War Manpower Chairman Paul V. McNutt has authorized regional and local WMC officials to establish immediately labor priorities in sections where transportation and distribution of coal has been curtailed to provide emergency manpower for the delivery of coal in storm stricken areas.

The priorities will be applied in the New England states, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, the District of Columbia, Maryland and such urban centers of Wisconsin and Minnesota as Milwaukee, Duluth, Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Skouras, Silverstones To England in March

Spyros Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president, Murray Silverstone, vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, and Arthur Silverstone, home office foreign representative stationed in London, now here, are scheduled to leave for England about mid-March. Skouras is returning here from the Coast this week.

While in England, Skouras and Silverstone will look into the company's British production plans. 20th recently completed a deal with Marcel Hellman for joint production of "Wanted for Murder. The theatre situation and the company's British distribution will also be looked into.

Lehr and Pickford Named by Guild

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 12.—Ann Lehr has been re-elected president of the Hollywood Guild Canteen, with other officers as follows: Mary Pickford, vice-president; Al Lichtman, vice-president and chairman of the board; Hugh Lee, treasurer and business manager; Harmon Woods, secretary; board of directors: Al Lichtman, Earl Carroll, John Chudacoff, Bette Davis, Mrs. Sig Herzig, Col. Jason Joy, Charles Koerner, Mrs. Ann Lehr, Mervyn LeRoy, Sol Lesser, David Tipp, Frank Vincent, Spike Wallace, John Wexley, Harrison Woods.

Hugh Lee, Al Lichtman and Jules Stein comprise the finance committee.

REEVES
SOUND STUDIOS, INC.
1600 BROADWAY, N. Y. 19 Circle 6-6686
Complete Film and Disc Recording Facilities

Lesser's $3,500,000 For Tarzan Rights

Sol Lesser discloses here that he has signed a 20-year deal with Edgar Rice Burroughs, author of the Tarzan stories, whereby Lesser will make one Tarzan feature yearly, with Burroughs receiving $175,000 per story, for a total of $3,500,000, reportedly the most any author has ever received for any series of pictures.

Burroughs, who is 65, is now with the OWI in Honolulu.

12 Millions for 10 Planned by Lesser

(Continued from page 1)

will be "Paris Canteen," part of which will be made in Paris, with the rest in Hollywood and London. He has applied for a French visa and will leave for Paris as soon as he can. The film is based on a new project by the American Theatre Wing, which is installing a canteen, *Cafe Tyrol* on the Champs Elysees in Paris, with United Nations cooperating. Charles Boyer, Beatrice Lillie and Edward Robinson are among the stars who will appear in the film, and Lesser is trying to get Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier for English parts. A percentage of the profits will go to the American Theatre Wing and another percentage to a relief fund of industry personnel formerly engaged in resistance in France.

The second Lesser production will be "Crazy to Dance," based on Arthur Murray's dancing schools. The third will be "Civilian Clothes," with Cary Grant, based on the reconditioning of a returned soldier. "Alarm and Excursion," will be the fourth, with Robinson and Joan Bennett.

Fifth film, which will go into May production, will be "Tarzan and the Intruder." The sixth will be "Silver Flame," story of the Comstock lode; others will be: "Flash; Flood," "Show Me a Land," "Tarzan and the Leopard Woman," and an untitled Tarzan.

Lesser, in New York lining up talent, will leave for the Coast Thursday.

Buchanan Appointed UA Publicity Chief

(Continued from page 1)

Gradwell L. Sears, vice-president in charge of distribution announced here yesterday. The appointment, forecast in MOTION PICTURE DAILY Jan. 31, will take effect Thursday.

Buchanan, resigning from the Government to accept the UA position, recently directed national exploitation on war bond drives, concentrating for the past year from Hollywood on the participation of stars in various compaigns. A graduate of Carnegie Institute of Technology, he had experience for a number of years with the Shuberts, served as a director of public relations for the New York World's Fair, and was also with the Ringling Bros. circus. He recently returned to California to wind up his Government affairs.

The UA advertising-publicity director post has been vacant five weeks, since the resignation of Lou Pollock.

NLRB Hits AFM on Platter-Turners

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—James C. Petrillo's AFM lost the first round in its jurisdictional dispute over radio 'platter turners', when a National Labor Relations Board trial examiner recommended in an interim report, that National Broadcasting Co. and the Blue Network be required to bargain collectively with the National Association of Broadcasting Engineers and Technicians, an independent union.

Howard Myers, trial examiner, held that the two companies, by refusing to bargain with the independent union as the exculsive representative of their employees, had interfered with the workers' lawful self - organization rights. The report said the companies' defense is based on the claim that to do so, would result in reprisals from Petrillo.

Erbb and Owen to Cleveland Meeting

William Erbb, Paramount's Eastern division manager and Hugh Owen, recently appointed New York and Southern division manager, will leave New York today for Cleveland to attend the company's final Central division sales meeting at the Cleveland Hotel starting tomorrow and continuing Thursday.

James J. Donohue, Central division manager, will preside, with Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution; R. M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director and Claude Lee, director of public relations, attending.

District manager H. H. Goldstein, branch managers, salesmen and head bookers from Cincinnati, Cleveland, Indianapolis and Detroit as well as district advertising representatives, will also attend the meeting.

SPU Charges NLRB Is 'Coddling' SAG

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 12.—Withholding a decision on whether to send representatives to Washington on Feb. 22 to attend hearings on the producers' and Screen Actors Guild's petitions for reconsideration of the National Labor Relations Board's definition of "extra player" in its certification of the Screen Players Union as bargaining agent for extras, the SPU telegraphed the NLRB at the weekend charging that the agency is "coddling the losing union and the producers."

The message urged NLRB to "order the producers to cease and desist from discrimination against SPU members." The producers and SAG previously had expressed gratification with NLRB's reopening of the case for argument.

Sammis on Coast

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 12.—Fred Sammis, editorial director of *Photoplay* magazine, and Herb Drake, promotion manager, are in Hollywood making arrangements for the *'Photoplay* Gold Medal Awards' which will be given here on Feb. 16 to stars and film judged most popular by the general public, based on the survey made by Dr. George Gallup.

No Relief on 285 Print Limit is Seen

(Continued from page 1)

meeting sought by Cohen after the Office of Civilian Requirements turned down his plea for aid.

Before contacting Adams, the association laid the matter before the OCR where, after discussions with WPB officials, the conclusion was reached that the cut, less than six per cent from last quarter, would have little effect on exhibitors. That phase of the question, it was disclosed, was also canvassed exhaustively at the Industry Advisory Committee meeting Feb. 1, and the limitation was adopted finally only after committee members expressed the belief no injury would be done exhibitors.

Cohen was advised of the decision of the OCR by W. Y. Elliott, WPB vice-chairman for Civil Requirements, who, pointing to the small extent of the cut expressed the belief it would have no adverse effect upon any theatres.

Appeals to Patriotism

At the same time, Elliott pointed out that if a larger percentage of raw stock was allotted to the industry it would mean that requirements for military and indirect military uses would have to be cut, and called upon the exhibitors patriotically to accept any inconvenience that may occur.

ITOA headquarters here issued the following statement at the weekend: "Max A. Cohen, chairman of the film committee of the ITOA was assured by Stanley Adams in Washington Friday that the WPB, in setting up the raw stock allocations would see to it that the subsequent run would be fully protected and be given an even break with the first run. Because of the 285 prints allotted for each production, the WPB feels that the subsequent run is just as important as the first run. The WPB feels there will be no penalty against the subsequent run so that nobody will be hurt."

Wayburn's Life in Films

Mrs. Ned Wayburn is collaborating with Fay Pulsifer on a screen script based on the life of Ned Wayburn, who for years staged the Ziegfeld Follies and produced independently and for George M. Cohan, Charles Dillingham, the Shuberts, Moss of London, and others. One of the script's highlights will be written around Wayburn's school of the dance.

GLOBE TICKET
COMPANY
154 W. 14th ST. N. Y. C.
Phone WAtkins 9-1486
PROMPT SERVICE AS USUAL

It's the Woman

THAT'S

A TOP "A

SENSATIONAL BUSINESS at the 4,000-seat de luxe ALBEE, BROOKLYN...and for scores of other first runs like PALACE, NEW YORK — PALACE, CHICAGO — PROCTORS, NEWARK — KEITH, WASHINGTON — ORPHEUM, KANSAS CITY — KEITH, SYRACUSE — KEITH, DAYTON — ORPHEUM, NEW ORLEANS — UPTOWN, SALT LAKE CITY—BRANDEIS, OMAHA—ORPHEUM, SEATTLE—PALACE, MEMPHIS—ALBEE, PROVIDENCE—ORPHEUM, DENVER—MAJESTIC, DALLAS.

Appeal

AKING THIS GREAT RKO SHOW GROSSER IN TOP "A" HOUSES!

The women just can't resist that virile, super-masculine appeal of big John Wayne—and his stormy romance with Ella Raines!

Miss Wanda Hale, in her rave review in the N. Y. Daily News, sums it up for women in general with:

> **"Hooray! 'Tall in the Saddle' adds something new to old-fashioned westerns. That something is animal magnetism. And I don't mean horses. It's romance appeal in the forms of John Wayne and Ella Raines. And if this deviation doesn't make the Palace Theatre one of the most popular places in town for the run, I miss my guess."**
>
> **[It did, Wanda—RKO]**

JOHN WAYNE · ELLA RAINES

IN

TALL IN THE SADDLE

with

WARD BOND • GEORGE "GABBY" HAYES • AUDREY LONG • ELISABETH RISDON • DON DOUGLAS

Produced by ROBERT FELLOWS • *Directed by* EDWIN L. MARIN

Screen Play by Michael Hogan and Paul P. Fix

RKO RADIO PICTURES

SIGN THAT PLEDGE CARD! RED CROSS DRIVE — MARCH 15-21

Dear "Motion Picture Daily":

Thanks for your gran

as "another successful Paramo

We particularly liked the part

to exhibitors as well as audie

the tradition of Paramount's f

every one of which, as you know

artistic success.

Written by
NORMAN KRASNA
Author of "Dear Ruth"
the sensational Broadway stage hit
just purchased by Paramount

"Prac

CLAUDETTE COLBERT
FRED MacMURRAY in
"PRACTICALLY YOURS"
with Gil Lamb • Cecil Kellaway • Robt. Benchley
Jane Frazee • Mikhail Rasumny
A MITCHELL
LEISEN
PRODUCTION
Directed by MITCHELL LEISEN

eview hailing "Practically Yours"

; comedy...studded with laughs".

here you said--"It will bring joy

es". That means that it carries on

ous award-winning hits of 1944,

was a financial as well as

tically Yours"

Claudette Colbert
Fred MacMurray

Paramount Pictures Inc.

Campaign Publicists Named for Drive

(*Continued from page* 1)

Memphis, Cecil Vogel; Milwaukee, Miss H. Brunner; Minneapolis, Charles Winchell; New Haven, Lou Brown; New Orleans, Maurice Barr; New York, Edward C. Dowden; Oklahoma City, Robert Busch; Omaha, Ted Emerson; Philadelphia, James Ashcraft; Pittsburgh, James Totman; Portland, Ore., Jack Matlack; St. Louis, Les Kaufman; Salt Lake City, Helen Garrity; San Francisco, Fay Reeder; Seattle, Vic Gauntlett; Washington, Frank LaFalce.

Snow Downs Marquee

HARTFORD, Feb. 12.—The entire Dow's Theatre marquee, valued at $4,000, and owned by Al Dow and D. Ferrone was ripped off late last week due to the weight of snow.

McCarroll to Assist Bund, AMPS Chief

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Alan McCarroll, formerly comptroller of the Army Motion Picture Service, has been appointed deputy chief of the Service, succeeding Fred Bund, Jr., who last week was promoted to chief, filling the post made vacant by the death of Raymond B. Murray.

Bund, who entered the industry in 1917 with Triangle Film Corp., served overseas in World War I and then became manager of the Community Motion Picture Bureau here.

Hochstein Trial Today

The trial of Harry Hochstein, former morals inspector in Chicago, and the sentencing of Isadore Nevin, former bookkeeper for George E. Browne, ex-president of the IATSE, both of whom were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury for alleged perjury in the Bioff-Browne proceedings, are scheduled in Federal Court here today.

MGM's 10th Block Is Raised to Eight

M-G-M's tenth block will have eight pictures, with the addition of "Keep Your Powder Dry" in the group, William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager has announced. The tentative release date has been set for March 30; the film will be tradeshown in all exchanges on Feb. 21, except Atlanta, Feb. 14, and Omaha, Feb. 19.

Others in the 10th block are: "The Thin Man Goes Home," "Main Street After Dark," "Music for Millions," "Blonde Fever," "This Man's Navy," "Between Two Women," "Nothing But Trouble." Release dates run from Jan. 12 to March 16.

Radio Libel Bill

ALBANY, Feb. 12.—A bill extending the libel law to radio was introduced in the Legislature Friday by Irwin Steingut, minority leader of the Assembly.

Massacre of 'GI's' in Special War Reel

Pathe News will release in Broadway theatres on Wednesday a one reel film called "Report on the Western Front," containing pictures of how the Allies broke the German counter-offensive and re-embarked on the offensive.

Compiled under the supervision of Frederic Ullman, Jr., president of Pathe, from film records of newsreel cameramen on six sectors of the Western Front, the report is accompanied by a series of maps outlining each theatre of action and by informative narration.

Among the scenes to be shown for the first time will be the massacre of 200 American prisoners by the Nazis; Belgian civilians murdered by the Germans in Malmedy because of their friendship to the Allies; the meeting of the 1st and 3rd Armies outside Houffalize; the evacuation of civilians in Wingon by 'GI's'; the return of civilians to Strasbourg, Boulogne and Calais in ruins; Marseilles functioning again as a port; German prisoners unloading Allied ships, and General de Gaulle's entrance into Nantes.

Selznick 10 Years An Independent

(*Continued from page* 1)

the start in pictures of his father, the late Lewis J. Selznick, one of the pioneers in the industry.

With a steady expansion of company plans, four pictures are already planned by Selznick, or under his supervision, this year. They are: "So Little Time," based on J. P. Marquand's novel; "Duel in the Sun," in color, to be directed by King Vidor; "The Scarlet Lily," and Alfred Hitchcock's "Notorious."

Making his start in production in 1923 with a two-reeler about the heavyweight contender, Firpo, Selznick had within five years joined Paramount as executive assistant to B. P. Schulberg. Later he became executive vice-president at RKO and an M-G-M producer, before starting his own company, as an independent producer.

Army Chiefs, Others See 'I'll Be Seeing You'

WASHINGTON, Feb 12.—Army officials and distinguished guests attended a special preview showing, late last week, of Selznick International's "I'll Be Seeing You."

Among those present were: Major General and Mrs. Norman T. Kirk; Major General and Mrs. George Lull; Brig. General and Mrs. Raymond Bliss; Col. Augustus Thorndyke; Brig. General and Mrs. Fred Rankin; Col. William C. Menninger; Mrs. Steve Simons; Col. and Mrs. Burr N. Carter; Major and Mrs. Harry L. Willard; Col. and Mrs. Martin Defrenne; General and Mrs. John L. Hines; Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers, and others.

NBC to Honor Sargent

National Broadcasting will honor Dr. Malcolm Sargent, conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra and other British musical organizations, at a luncheon at the Hotel Waldorf Astoria here tomorrow.

• PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD • PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD • PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD •

Who
is the whole nation's most popular movie actress?

Who
is the whole nation's most popular movie actor?

What
is the nation's picture of the year?

TO FIND OUT...

DR. GEORGE GALLUP'S AUDIENCE RESEARCH, INC.

POLLS THE AMERICAN PUBLIC

FOR PHOTOPLAY!

Starting in 1944, Photoplay's Gold Medal Award—the oldest annual award in the industry—will go each year to the American Public's choices.

The same scientific methods will be used which have enabled Dr. Gallup to predict the winner in five presidential elections as well as scores of others.

Will the Public confirm the critics' choice?

Will the Public confirm the box-office records?

Will the Public confirm the many individual polls of editors, special reader groups, and the industry itself?

See Photoplay for March for the final results.

• PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD • PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD • PHOTOPLAY'S GOLD MEDAL AWARD •

IN SPITE OF SNOW...
HAIL...ZERO WEATHER...
STORMS...BROWNOUT...
RECORD BUSINESS
FOR
"A SONG TO REMEMBER"

HELD OVER
3rd WEEK
EVERYWHERE!

BUSINESS *UP... UP... UP...*

AS THERMOMETER WENT
down
down
down

NEW YORK

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL—ONLY 4 PICTURES IN MUSIC HALL HISTORY HAVE EQUALLED SUPERB 1st WEEK!* 2nd WEEK EVEN GREATER!** NOW IN TREMENDOUS 3rd WEEK!

*without a holiday **also without a holiday

SA

BOSTON

PHENOMENAL BUSINESS! HELD OVER 3rd WEEK AT ORPHEUM AFTER 2 SMASH SESSIONS!

FOLLOWING 2 WEEKS OF MEMORABLE BUSINESS, MOVED OVER FOR SENSATIONAL 3rd WEEK!

ST. LOUIS

CINCINNATI

B-I-G BUSINESS! HELD OVER 3rd WEEK AFTER 2 TOP-GROSSING WEEKS!

NEW ORLEANS

ANOTHER SOCK! MOVE-OVER FOR 3rd WEEK FOLLOWING 2 TERRIFIC WEEKS!

COLUMBIA PICTURES

KEEP SELLING BONDS!

SAN FRANCISCO

ALL HOUSE RECORDS AT ORPHEUM BROKEN 1st AND 2nd WEEKS! STILL SHATTERING ALL RECORDS IN WONDERFUL 3rd WEEK!

OAKLAND

GREATEST GROSS IN HISTORY! GREATEST 2nd WEEK AT ROXIE TOPS GREATEST 1st WEEK! NOW 3rd WEEK RECORDS BEING SMASHED!

FLASH! Just opened Springfield, Mass., Bijou to tremendous business! Exhibitor Al Anders wires:

"PICTURE OF RAVISHING BEAUTY AND JOY. WILL LIVE FOR YEARS. AUDIENCE REACTION SPLENDID. ALL COMMENTS LAUDATORY. MUSIC SINGLED OUT FOR PARTICULAR PRAISE. MANY HAVE TOLD US THEY WILL COME SEE IT AGAIN. PICTURE SHOULD MAKE BARREL OF DOUGH. LOOK FOR LONG RECORD-BREAKING ENGAGEMENT AT BIJOU. WE DOFF OUR HATS TO EVERYBODY CONCERNED WITH MAKING OF THIS OUTSTANDINGLY DIFFERENT SCREEN TREAT!"

Mr. Exhibitor...

Check with any situation where the picture has opened! Learn all about the record business . . . tremendous audience enthusiasm! Learn why they're ALL saying: "THANKS TO COLUMBIA FOR MAKING THIS GREAT PICTURE AT THIS TIME IN THE INDUSTRY'S HISTORY!"

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS

A Sidney Buchman Production

A Song to Remember

Paul MUNI · *Merle* OBERON

starring

WITH CORNEL WILDE

NINA FOCH · GEORGE COULOURIS

Directed by CHARLES VIDOR

Screen Play by Sidney Buchman

IN TECHNICOLOR

Sign That Pledge Card!
Red Cross Drive—March 15-21

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 31 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1945 TEN CENTS

Cowdin Cites $3,412,701 Universal Net

$5,000,000 Increase in Sales Under Blumberg

Net profit of Universal pictures amounted to $3,412,701 in the year ended Oct. 28, 1944, equivalent to $5.15 per share on stock outstanding, J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board, and N. J. Blumberg, president, will announce in a statement released here by the company today. (Cowdin arrived in London from New York yesterday). The 1944 net compares with net earnings of $3,759,968 in the preceding year.

Profits before providing for Federal income and excess profits taxes amounted to $11,260,601. This compares with $12,353,168 in the preceding year.

For the eighth consecutive year, rentals and sales of Universal pictures and other income from opera-

(Continued on page 4)

Big Grosses at N. Y. Houses

Ideal weekend weather conditions coupled with strong Lincoln's Birthday holiday business, is leading most New York first-runs to heavy grosses this week. A snowstorm which set in yesterday had varying effect.

Of new arrivals, "The Princess and the Pirate," at the Astor, and "Hangover Square," at the Roxy, are really outstanding. Registering a record-breaking $32,500 from Friday to Monday night at the Astor, aided by an

(Continued on page 8)

Sue Selznick Over 'Frisco Pact Jump

San Francisco, Feb. 13.—Joe Blumenfeld, independent exhibitor and owner of Blumenfeld Theatres, Inc., announced here today that he had instructed legal counsel in Washington to file suit for damages against David O. Selznick, partner in United Artists, on charges of contract violation.

Acting in behalf of himself and the corporation, Blumenfeld charges that the film, "I'll Be Seeing You," des-

(Continued on page 4)

Bill Aimed at Union 'Make-Work' Rules

Washington, Feb. 13.—A bill designed to eliminate 'make work' practices by labor unions and to reduce work stoppages resulting from jurisdictional disputes has been introduced by Rep. Monroney of Oklahoma. The measure would prohibit 'stand-by' musicians and could affect employment of two or more projectionists in a booth where such employment was not directly required for safety reasons.

Allies' Nazi Film Policy

Mutual exchange of motion pictures by the U. S., Great Britain and Russia, to be shown generally in invaded Germany following an agreed plan by the three Allies, and flowing from the broad policy laid down by the Big Three in their conference in the Crimea for occupation of separate German zones, is envisaged by Robert Riskin, chief of the Office of War Information overseas film bureau, in an interview with Motion Picture Daily here yesterday.

Method of operation of such a plan will be determined as a result of a meeting of OWI film representatives with film representatives of the British and Russian Governments, Riskin said.

The OWI, Riskin declared, is ready to 'invade' Germany with films imme-

(Continued on page 4)

Allied Sees Value In Clearance Move Even If It Fails

Washington, Feb. 13.—Regardless of the outcome of the Department of Justice's proposals for the elimination of clearance between non-competitive theatres or those charging the same admission prices, three ends may be accomplished, according to an Allied States discussion and analysis of the proposals now being circulated.

Allied declares that the disclosure in the Department's brief and motion of the fundamentals of the Government's suit should bring about a realization of the seriousness of the proceeding; that, since notice of the motion was filed on all eight large companies, rather than on just the five decree companies, it will serve to bring the non-consenting defendants,

(Continued on page 7)

MPTOA Warns On Rentals and Taxes

High film rentals and playing terms and admission taxes are listed in an MPTOA bulletin released yesterday as the two principal problems confronting exhibitors as peak wartime attendance begins to decline.

The bulletin, issued over the signature of Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA president, declares that "it is quite clear that the (attendance) peak was reached several months ago and that a definite decline already has set in." It places the blame for high rentals

(Continued on page 8)

"The Enchanted Cottage"

[*RKO Radio*]

Hollywood, Feb. 13

ADD "The Enchanted Cottage" to the ever-growing list of fine Hollywood efforts. By its own merits, this attraction carves itself a splendid niche.

Here is a film which rests heavily on the believability and the integrity of its principal performances and the steady, yet understanding, hand in its direction. It is fortunate, and thus a happy circumstance to report that this proves the case.

Here, also, is a case of emotional effect depending very largely on those performances and that direction because the actual story framework is a slim affair upon which to fall back.

Robert Young, wealthy young man, goes off to the wars. He is shot down and a year later is returned to civilian life, a wreck of a man and disfigured. He has mental hazards to hurdle, a place to find himself under sharply altered conditions. Dorothy McGuire, unattractive girl and alone, lives in a sort of dream world which allows her to be as glamorous as she cares to imagine herself to be. They meet in a quaint and

(Continued on page 8)

Rank's Films To Be Cleared Through PCA

Will Submit Scripts To MPPDA in London

By PETER BURNUP

London, Feb. 13.—In consequence of an exchange of correspondence between J. Arthur Rank and Martin Quigley, head of Quigley Publications, New York, Rank today issued strict orders to all of his producers to submit their working scripts to MPPDA prior to shooting with a view to avoiding infringement of the American Production Code Administration standards.

Rank's direction provoked some resentment among certain producers here, who claimed that the submission of scripts implied restraints upon their artistry. To this Rank replied that their livelihood is dependent not only upon their artistic reputation, but

(Continued on page 4)

Avoid 16mm. Stock Quotas

Washington, Feb. 13.—No restrictions beyond the limitations created by short supplies will be imposed upon the 16mm. industry in this quarter, it was decided today at the first meeting of the newly created 16mm. Industry Advisory Committee with War Production Board officials.

Although supplies currently are short, it was agreed that the difficulties of establishing an allocation system outweighed its advantages, and

(Continued on page 8)

Inactive Producers To Get Raw Stock

Hollywood, Feb. 13.—Independent producers who were inactive last year but had previous production records can obtain raw stock by making special application, members of the Society of Independent M. P. Producers were told by Warren Doane, War Production Board unit chief here, at a luncheon meeting yesterday following the latter's return from Washington.

The provision is said to take care

(Continued on page 8)

Personal Mention

JAMES MULVEY, vice-president of Samuel Goldwyn Prod., arrived on the Coast yesterday from New York.

•

TED GAMBLE, theatre executive and national director of the War Finance Division, of the United States Treasury, has been elected a director of Western Life Insurance Co., Helena, Montana.

•

JEROME PICKMAN, executive assistant to HAL HORNE, 20th Century-Fox director of advertising, publicity and exploitation, and SIDNEY BLUMENSTOCK, assistant exploitation manager, have returned from Atlanta.

•

FRANCIS ALSTOCK, director of the film section of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, has left Hollywood for Washington.

•

SAM EPSTEIN, head of the Epstein Theatre Circuit, Omaha, is recuperating from a back injury suffered in an automobile accident.

•

WILLARD J. O'NEILL, secretary-treasurer of Paramount Film Service, Ltd., Toronto, is observing his 25th year with Paramount.

•

LEONARD GOLDENSON, Paramount vice-president in charge of theatre operations, arrived in Hollywood yesterday from New York.

•

CHARLES C. MOSKOWITZ, Loew's vice-president and head of the Metropolitan circuit, will leave for a Miami vacation in March.

•

MAX FELLERMAN and ED HYMAN, Paramount theatre executives, arrived in Hollywood yesterday from New York.

•

MAX WILDER, Warner Bros. managing director in Great Britain, left here for London over the weekend.

•

ROBERT M. WEITMAN, managing director of the New York Paramount, arrived in Hollywood yesterday.

•

A. A. SCHUBART, RKO Radio manager of exchange operations, has returned here from Los Angeles.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Southern and Canadian sales manager for Universal, left yesterday for Canada.

•

H. M. BESSEY, vice-president of Altec Service Corp., has returned here from Detroit and Chicago.

•

HARRY GOLDBERG, Warner Theatres advertising and publicity head, is in New Haven today.

•

CHARLES SMAKWITZ, Warner Theatres Albany assistant zone manager, is in New York.

•

JOSEPH ENGEL, Philadelphia branch manager for Republic, is en route to Hollywood.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, Feb. 13

CHARLIE REAGAN, flanked by Bob Gillham and Claude Lee, is due in Cleveland Wednesday on one of nine key city stands which had San Francisco as opening date. The V. P. in charge of Paramount sales, is talking to his staff about matters generally but everywhere he goes he is also talking to exhibitors invited to the sessions for the purpose.

Behind this line of travel is an interesting development. It bears on exhibitor relationships and a full-scale intention on Paramount's part to get closer to its customers.

■

When Reagan assumed his current post, about a year ago as the calendar flies, he inaugurated a territory-by-territory canvass of the accounts now on his company's books and others which might be. Current deals were scanned and then analyzed to make certain they had been created on a basis of equity, not alone from the distributor's point of view but from that of the exhibitor to boot. The returns are in now, with the exception of scattered sections.

Next step was to make division, district and branch managers autonomous which, in turn, meant vesting in them authority sufficient to settle disputes within their own borders. At the pinnacle, which is another word for New York for this purpose, is headquarters which will serve as the final clearing house if and when differences of opinion cannot be solved in the field and further appeals are taken.

■

But it is the feeling, accompanied by the anticipation, that relatively little will develop which will not be cleared up in the area of origin. Moreover, this feeling represents a fundamental plank in the plan for the following reason which makes a great deal of sense:

In the eyes of the average exhibitor, Paramount, or any other distributor for that matter, actually is the man—not the company—with whom he directly conducts business. In the structure of distribution, naturally, this means the salesman and then the branch manager after whom the relationship terminates, in many instances. Thereafter, if required, stand the district and divisional managers. Somewhere off on a hazy and nebulous horizon is New York, geographically and mentally removed by distance and time. In other words, to the exhibitor in Pomona it's the manager in Los Angeles to whom he turns. "Those guys in New York" are a long 3,000 miles off.

■

To the theatremen he is addressing, Reagan is explaining the autonomy plan. Likewise, he is emphasizing Paramount's full intention to maintain and to cement further its dealings and its contacts with its exhibitor accounts.

This is an idea which certainly is not new, but the wonder is that more companies have not taken to the field to espouse and to give it first-hand to the men who pay the film rentals. Bill Rodgers for Metro has been hammering away on such a program for many months and is convinced it has been an effort thoroughly worthwhile. Reagan is on it now.

Next, please?

■ ■

Albert Dekker, actor, is also Albert Dekker, state assemblyman. When appointments were being worked out on his first trip to Sacramento, he asked for an appointment to the agricultural committee.

"Why that one when there are others more important? And, besides, what do you know about agriculture?"

The retort which won Dekker the appointment:

"I'm in a business that sells more corn and gets fancier prices for it than any other in the world."

■ ■

The long, rectangular table in the executive dining room at 20th Century-Fox finds Darryl Zanuck always seated at its head. Joe Schenck and others fanfare down the sides. Otto Preminger, quiet and reserved, usually finds himself in a place at the far end.

The other day, however, Zanuck kidded him with, "Otto, you're too far away. Come up here."

That was the day of the Academy nominations, including Preminger for his direction of "Laura."

■ ■

Jack Warner, illustrating the "You-Can't-Take-It-With-You" theory:

"A fellow was seen buying two plots in a cemetery. Someone asked him why two.

"He replied: 'One for me and the other one for my money.'"

Park-Butte Sues 23 In $408,000 Action

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 13.—The Park-Butte Theatre Co. of Butte, Montana, has filed a civil action in District Court here asking for $408,000 in treble damages from 23 distributors and circuits.

Operating two theatres, the plaintiff contends that for the past 12 years the defendants have combined to restrain trade and commerce in distribution and exhibition and also charges that he has been discriminated against.

Defendants include: 20th Century-Fox's National Theatres, Fox West Coast and Fox Intermountain et al, Hall Saetz—F. H. Ricketson, Jr., Spyros Skouras, Paramount, M-G-M, RKO Radio, Columbia, Republic, United Artists, Monogram, Producers' Distributing, J. T. Sheffield, Lon T. Fidler and several Fox theatres in Montana.

N. Y. Film Salesmen Set New Organization

New York area film salesmen have completed organization plans and are discussing possible affiliation with either the AFL or CIO. Arrangements are being made to formulate a constitution, elect permanent officers and decide on action on their problems. It is understood that a committee will discuss a possible affiliation with the IATSE.

Membership is understood to include film salesmen from both large companies and independents, but it is learned that salesmen from two major companies, unnamed, have not yet joined.

Skouras to Speak at 'One World' Dinner

Spyros Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president, will be a principal speaker at the "One World" dinner at the Hotel Astor here on Sunday, the birthday of Wendell Willkie. On that occasion Darryl F. Zanuck will be presented with an award for an exceptional contribution to international understanding in motion pictures.

The dinner, held under the auspices of the American Nobel Center, will also honor Kent Cooper, executive director of the Associated Press, and Brigadier General David Sarnoff, president of RCA.

Ben Schwalb PRC Executive Producer

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 13.—Leon Fromkess, PRC president, today elevated Ben Schwalb, his executive assistant since the inception of the company, to a newly-created post of executive producer in charge of five production units. Not included under Schwalb's jurisdiction will be films personally produced by Fromkess or Sigmund Neufeld productions.

Columbia 2½% Dividend

Columbia has declared a two-and-one-half-per-cent dividend on its common stock, payable May 9 to common stockholders of record on April 26.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor, Published daily except Saturday, Sunday, and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Theo Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1945 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

"The only way to resist temptation is to yield to it"—

From DORIAN GRAY, *Philosopher of Pleasure-seekers*

You're invited to a

WILDE PARTY!

Yes, it's Oscar Wilde's story
of Youth's adventure in Living

M-G-M's GREAT ATTRACTION

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

Don't Miss It!

TRADE SHOW!

FRIDAY FEB. 23rd

NEW YORK & LOS ANGELES TERRITORIES

(Others will be announced later)

IN NEW YORK: M-G-M SCREEN ROOM—630 NINTH AVE.—10:30 A. M. . . . . also 2:30 P. M.

IN LOS ANGELES: AMBASSADOR THEATRE, AMBASSADOR HOTEL—1:30 P. M.

Cleveland Reelects Schwartz 12th Time

Cleveland, Feb. 13.—The Cleveland Motion Picture Association has reelected Ernest Schwartz president for the 12th successive term, by acclamation. Also reelected were: Vice-president, Albert E. Ptak; secretary, George W. Erdmann; treasurer, James E. Scoville.

Eastern Penn. Allied Reelects Samuelson

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 13.—Allied Independent Theatre Owners of Eastern Pennsylvania has re-elected Sidney Samuelson as general manager. In addition, the following were elected: to the board of governors, from Philadelphia, for three-years, Ben Fertel, Milton Rogasner, Morris Wax; to the board from upstate Pennsylvania, for three-years, Joe Gonway, Jack Greenberg; to the board from Philadelphia, for two-years, George L. Ickes, Thomas Lazarick, George Riester, Lester Stallman, Max Korr.

Other officers elected by the board were: Ben Fertel, treasurer; E. B. Gregory, secretary; Conway, chairman, finance; Harry Chertcoff, national director; George Ickes and Morris Wax, alternates.

Allies Formulating Policy for Nazis

(*Continued from page* 1)

diately, having accumulated a stockpile in London of 20 Hollywood features with German titles and OWI documentaries dubbed in German. The OWI only awaits the 'go-ahead' signal from the military to move into Germany, Riskin said.

Reginald Armour, Riskin's assistant in the European area, working out of London, will participate in conferences of other U. S. Government agencies working on plans for the film 'occupation' of Germany, Riskin said.

J. A. Rank's Films to Clear Through PCA

(*Continued from page* 1)

also upon acceptance of conditions which are firmly entrenched in the American market and recognized by American producers.

Arrangements are now pending by which the process of submitting scripts here will be expedited through their preliminary examination by F. W. Allport, MPPDA representative here, who recently returned from New York.

Watch
U. A. releases
bearing
G.C.F.
Presents

$5,000,000 Increase in 1944 Universal Rentals

(*Continued from page* 1)

tions showed an increase, aggregating $51,561,504, largest amount in the history of the company, compared with $46,478,527 in the preceding year.

Revenues from operations in this country totaled $32,386,000, an increase of $3,323,000 over the preceding year; revenue from foreign operations amounted to $19,175,000, an increase of $1,760,000.

"Basic costs of producing and distributing have steadily increased, in common with other industrial operations, but Universal is making every effort, through its system of budgetary control, to prevent undue increase in such costs," Cowdin stated.

Net working capital position of the company was further strengthened during the year, increasing from $16,094,906 to $18,798,687. The ratio of current and working assets to current liabilities was 2.84 to 1 at the end of the year.

Structure Strengthened

The capital structure was strengthened and simplified during the past year as a result of the sale of $7,500,000 of three and three-quarter per cent debentures due March 1, 1959, through a nationwide investment banking group. The proceeds from the sale of these debentures were used to retire the company's outstanding bank loans and its five per cent convertible debentures, due April 1, 1950.

Charge to operations for the amortization of films, royalties, etc., for the year amounted to $24,375,518, an increase of $4,101,870 over the year previous, being the result of increased production schedules and higher production costs. Inventories at the end of the year stood at $19,487,592, compared with $19,161,801 at the end of the previous year.

Last year the board of directors placed the payment of dividends on a quarterly basis, the company paying a total of $2 per share for the year. Since the close of the fiscal year it has declared another quarterly dividend of 50 cents per share, which was payable Jan. 31, 1945.

The operations of the company since last Fall to date have shown a decline in business, reflecting in part the falling off in theatre attendance during the presidential election period and during the holidays, disclosed Cowdin, adding, "It is felt that this downtrend represents but a temporary condition."

Universal's taxes aggregated $9,639,542, equivalent to 74 per cent of the company's earnings before taxes. This was also equal to $2,741 per "U" employe in the United States, to 43 cents of every dollar of Universal wages, salaries and other compensation and to $14.55 per share of stock, it was disclosed.

During the year, Universal contributed to the Army, without cost, 2,021 feature prints and 1,275 prints of short subjects for troops abroad.

Cowdin in London to Seek Rank and 'U' Heads

LONDON, Feb. 13.—J. Cheever Cowdin, Universal board chairman, has arrived in London from New York for conferences with General Films Distributors' officials, the company's representatives here, and with J. Arthur Rank, who is a member of the Universal board of directors.

'U's' Stockholders to Meet in March 15.

Universal's annual stockholders' meeting is scheduled to be held on March 14. It is expected that a proxy statement will be sent to stockholders beginning this week.

Sue Selznick Over 'Frisco Pact Jump

(*Continued from page* 1)

tined for the local United Artists Theatre, a Blumenfeld-operated house, was released instead to Fox West Coast Theatres, Inc., for showing here starting tomorrow at the Fox.

Blumenfeld theatres here, the owner said, have been showing United Artists pictures for the past 10 years. The complaint will charge that Selznick switched houses in retaliation for Blumenfeld's recent acquisition of theatre properties in Los Angeles. Blumenfeld said he would make no attempt to enjoin the showing of the film at the Fox.

Efforts to reach Edward C. Raftery, United Artists president, here, yesterday, for comment on the Blumenfeld suit were unsuccessful.

WAC Trailer Spurs Drive

The War Activities Committee has approved for distribution during February a one-minute recruiting trailer for the General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. Company of the Women's Army Corps. Entitled "This Is Right . . . Let's Go!" The film is an appeal to the women of New York, New Jersey and Delaware to enlist as medical and surgical technicians.

Phila. Inquirer to Raise Rates Again

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 13.—The *Philadelphia Inquirer* announces that effective March 15, advertising rates for theatres will be increased again. Display rates will jump 10 cents per line on Sundays, from $1.10 to $1.20, and daily rates will go from 70 to 75 cents per line. Neighborhood advertising rates will rise from 35 to 40 cents per line daily, and from 40 to 45 cents per line on Sundays.

Ascap's Bob Murray Dies in Montreal

Robert L. Murray, 55, director of public relations for the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, died suddenly of a heart attack in Montreal, last Saturday.

Murray is survived by a widow, Mrs. Hermine Murray, and two stepsons, Pfc Philip Welch and 1st Lt. Paul E. Welch.

Harry C. Alber Dies

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 13.—Harry C. Alber, 52, engineer, who designed and built the NBC broadcasting studio here, the NBC building in San Francisco and installed the air conditioning in Radio City, New York, died here last Thursday.

Permanent Status For Coast MPSA

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 13.—Mapping plans for the organization's activities to 1946, the Motion Picture Society for the Americas' Board of Directors has put a tacit end to reports that the agency would disband in June. On the contrary, it is understood that a permanent status is expected to eventuate from discussions current in Washington. Trem Carr of Monogram and Allen Wilson of Republic, were elected to membership, completing MPSA studio representation.

Mervin Travis, manager of the MPSA, has been appointed executive secretary and treasurer.

MGM, Universal Win Infringement Award

Loew's and Universal were awarded $1,200, plus $1,000 counsel fees, in New York Federal Court yesterday by Judge Samuel Mandelbaum, against Sanfrebob Theatre Corp., and Nathan Steinberg, owner and manager of the Grande Theatre, New York, for the unauthorized playing of three films over and above the number of times contracted for.

Films involved were "You're a Sweetheart," Universal, with the award being $400, plus $500 counsel fees, and "Tortilla Flat" and "San Francisco," M-G-M, awards on both films being $800, plus $500 counsel fees. Infringement took place in 1944.

Keough in Hollywood For AMPP Meeting

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 13.—Austin C. Keough, Paramount vice-president and general counsel, arrived in Hollywood today to attend the Association of Motion Picture Producers' annual meeting, to be held there this week. Keough will remain in California until the end of the month.

J. Robert Rubin, M-G-M vice-president and general counsel has also arrived here from Phoenix to attend the meeting; Will Hays is here for the same purpose.

Freeman of Para. Is Killed in Action

POUGHKEEPSIE, Feb. 13.—William Freeman, 33, former manager of Paramount's Bardavon Theatre here, was killed in action in Luxembourg with General Patton's Third Army on Jan. 19, according to information received here from the War Department by his wife. Freeman was with Paramount since 1930, starting at the Paramount Stapleton, Staten Island, N. Y., joining the Bardavon in 1934.

Freeman entered the Armed Forces last March 13. He is also survived by three children.

Exhibitor Hart Dies

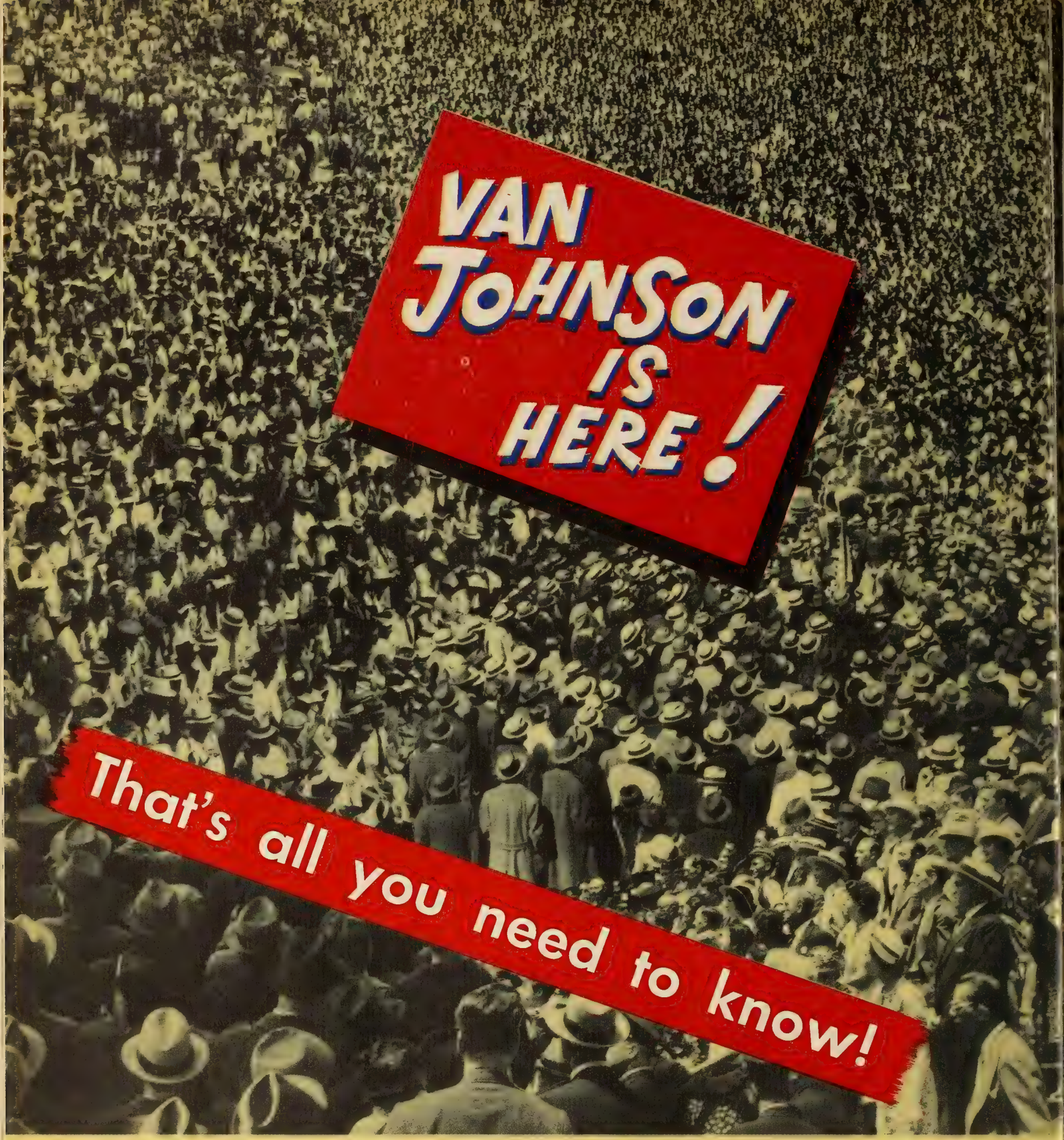
SARASOTA, Fla., Feb. 13.—William (Bill) Hart, for many years a showman hereabouts, and later connected with Sparks Organization, passed away here.

D'Souza WB China Mgr.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 13.—Eustace V. D'Souza has been appointed manager for Warner Bros. in China, succeeding James A. David. At present D'Souza is making his headquarters in Chungking.

VAN JOHNSON IS HOT!

Sign That Pledge Card!
Red Cross Drive—March 15-21



VAN JOHNSON

in the **M★G★M** *Romance*

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN"

with

LIONEL BARRYMORE · GLORIA DE HAVEN

and

KEENAN WYNN · MARILYN MAXWELL · ALMA KRUGER · MARIE BLAKE · KEYE LUKE

ORIGINAL SCREEN PLAY BY HARRY RUSKIN • **A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture** • DIRECTED BY WILLIS GOLDBECK

LITHO U

National Theatres Is Ready for Television: Skouras

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 13.—Post-war plans and new avenues of probable development of the industry keynoted the five-day annual meeting here of National Theatres' executives, headed by Charles P. Skouras, president.

As an example of what theatres can do on both the home front and for the war effort, Skouras pointed out that the "March of Dimes" drive in 1945 had reached a total in National Theatres of $526,000, against $415,000 in 1944.

Attending the sessions, all of which were presided over by Skouras, were: F. H. Ricketson, Jr., president, Fox Intermountain Theatres; Elmer Rhoden, president, Fox Midwest Theatres; Harold Fitzgerald, president, Fox Wisconsin Theatres; Frank Newman, president, Evergreen State Theatres; George Bowser, general manager, Fox West Coast Theatres; B. V. Sturdivant, division manager, Northern California Fox West Coast Theatres; A. J. Krappman, division manager, Southern California Fox West Coast Theatres; and their respective department heads.

Television Plans

"Television," Skouras stated, "may occupy a very vital position in the future of our business." At any rate, when television comes, National Theatres will be ready for it. Preparatory to our becoming actively engaged in it we are organizing a permanent television department." In charge of the new department, he announced, will be R. H. McCullough, for many years in charge of Fox West Coast maintenance and purchasing departments.

Deny Autry's Bid to Break Contract

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 13.—Gene Autry's action to cancel his Republic contract has been denied here by Judge Charles E. Haas of Superior Court.

Judge Haas stated that Autry is bound by the contract to carry out the terms of the agreement by appearing in five films as per notice to him on Aug. 1, 1942, and that he is still in the employ of Republic and will continue therein until he is released by the company or until he completes work in the films.

McCarthy Hits SOEG Political Assessments

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 13.—Appearing as a "friend of the court" in the trial of the suit by dissident members of the Screen Office Employees Guild to restrain the union from assessing the membership for political purposes, Neil F. McCarthy, counsel for Cecil B. De Mille in his recent legal conflict with the American Federation of Radio Artists on similar grounds, denounced the whole system of union procedure as "un-American."

Boston Suburbans May Cut Matinees

BOSTON, Feb. 13.—As the temperature drops, more snow falls and the coal shortage grows more acute locally, several suburban theatres anticipate eliminating daily matinees.

Allied Sees Value In Clearance Move

(*Continued from page* 1)

Columbia, United Artists and Universal, back into the proceeding, and that the motion, whether granted or denied, should result in setting the case for trial on the merits on a day certain.

The Government, according to Allied, states that it will offer no oral testimony at the hearing on its clearance proposals, but will base its motion on the pleadings, the defendants' answers to interrogatories, Arbitration Appeal Board decisions numbered 1 to 104, inclusive, and on its brief.

"If an order is entered requiring distributors to justify any clearance granted to affiliated theatres," Allied says, "it is probable that this would, by agreement, be left to arbitration since otherwise it might swamp the courts."

Indicating that Allied plans to take some supporting action in connection with the Department's clearance proposals is a request that members of its executive committee and of the Conference of Independent Exhibitors retain copies of the Allied analysis of the proposals.

Raises New Questions

The Allied bulletin contends the real significance of the Government's brief is that it raises legal questions concerning trade practices heretofore unquestioned. It declares that in the past the companies "have stressed the legality of each act or practice, considered separately and apart from all the others, and have closed their eyes to the altered legal status of such acts and practices when viewed as parts of a system or combination."

Ritz Theatre Asks Cut in Clearance

Max Cohen of Ritzlynd, Inc., operating the Ritz Theatre, Lyndhurst, N. J., has filed a clearance complaint against the five consenting companies and the Rivoli Theatre, Rutherford, N. J., in the New York tribunal. Others named were: Rex Theatre, East Rutherford; Franklin, Nutley; Capital, Belleville; Lincoln, North Arlington; and the Regent and Hudson, Kearney, all in New Jersey.

Complaint charges that the defendants have "gerrymanded the pertinent zone" and have improperly permitted the Franklin to follow the Capitol by seven days instead of 14, thus, by indirection, giving the Franklin seven days clearance over the Ritz which is required to follow the Rivoli by 14 days. In addition, the complaint states the Capitol waives clearance on the Franklin to reduce it to one day. Further, complainant alleges, in a direct breach of the contract between the Rivoli and the defendants they have permitted said theatre to reduce its price of admission to destroy complainant's theatre, which reduction eliminates all justification for a 14-day clearance by the Rivoli over the Ritz.

In any event, the complainant said, 14 days clearance in favor of the Rivoli is excessive and asks that it be eliminated or reduced to one day.

Attorney for the Ritz Theatre is Mel Albert.

PLEASE GET YOUR TICKET TODAY FOR THE

RED CROSS BREAKFAST

Tues. Feb. 20th—9 A. M.

WALDORF-ASTORIA (GRAND BALLROOM)

Everybody of goodwill in this industry (*and that means you!*) will be there to hear the plans for the Red Cross Drive, March 15-21. Let's make it a rally whose enthusiasm will echo overseas!

YES! DO IT NOW!

TICKETS FROM DAVE WEINSTOCK 1501 BROADWAY OR ALL HOME OFFICES AND FILM EXCHANGES

Avoid 16mm. Stock Quotas

(Continued from page 1)

suggestions to provide quotas for the 16mm. producers and distributors were laid aside after being thoroughly canvassed.

While it was feared a month ago that 16mm. supplies would be possibly half of what they were in the last quarter, the situation now is described as not too bad and is expected to improve somewhat in the coming quarter. Since the half-way mark now has been reached in this quarter, it was believed that the industry might be able to get through without formal action by the WPB.

Members of the industry committee who met with Stanley B. Adams, director of the WPB's Consumers' Durable Goods division, and other WPB officials for the first time included: Emerson Yorke, William K. Hedwig, Nu-Art Films; Eric H. Haight Films; Samuel Goldstein, Commonwealth Pictures; Henry Glickman, Mecca Film Laboratories; William J. Gans; Varney C. Arnstiger, Encyclopedia Britannica Films; Leslie Winik, Official Films; George P. Ulcigan, Soundies Distribution Corp.; H. J. Spiess, Castle Films; J. Milton Salsburg, Pictorial Films; Russell C. Rosson; Harry A. Post, Post Pictures Corp.; Sol Jeffee, Movielab Laboratories, and George A. Hirliman, Walter O. Gutloben, Inc.

Inactive Producers To Get Raw Stock

(Continued from page 1)

of raw stock requirements of such producers as Mary Pickford and Charles Chaplin which may arise during the year. Members of the Independent M. P. Producers Ass'n. also attended the meeting.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Independent producers who made no pictures in 1944 but who had earlier production records will be taken care of when and as they need raw stock but a system to cover such requirements has not yet been worked out, the WPB said today. All such applications, however, will be carefully scrutinized as the raw stock reserve for such purposes is represented as being small.

Brandon Versatile

A daughter, Amy, has been born to Mrs. Thomas J. Brandon, wife of the president of Brandon Films. The baby was born in a taxi enroute to French Hospital, with the father 'officiating.'

Watch U. A. releases bearing G.C.F. Presents

"The Enchanted Cottage"

(Continued from page 1)

old New England cottage, enchanted by its happy memories of the many young couples who spent their honeymoons there.

The drama deals with the conflicts and the growing relationship between Young and Miss McGuire until finally they wed. He marries her because she understands him. She marries him because she loves him. How their individual situations surmount the obstacles of physical unattractiveness so that each sees the other only in the shining and attractive light of their love is the tender and dramatic climax.

Their sympathizers are Herbert Marshall, pianist, whose blindness has opened exclusive worlds to him alone, and Mildred Natwick, who has lived a generation in the bright memory of her soldier-lover, killed in the First World War. Their antagonists are Young's family and the girl he was to marry before his injuries.

This kind of material called for delicate shadings and intelligent interpretations. Anything less would have been damaging, probably beyond redemption. Thus, proper acknowledgement must go to De Witt Bodeen and Herman J. Mankiewicz for their script, to John Cromwell for the measure of his sympathetic and comprehending direction, and to the acting jobs of all the principals, but chiefly to Miss McGuire, Miss Natwick, Young and Marshall. In their support, and ably so, are Spring Byington, Hillary Brooke, Alec Englander, Richard Gaines and Josephine Whittell.

"The Enchanted Cottage" is off the beaten path. In fact, it beats a path of its own and, in that sense, therefore, becomes an attraction of some size. Its future is not easy to forecast and it may be that the teen-agers will want something else to engage their attentions. Those who want something apart from the routine, however, have it here. Jack J. Gross was executive producer; Harriet Parsons produced.

Running time, 92 mins. General classification. For release in block No. 3.

RED KANN

MPTOA Warns On Rentals and Taxes

(Continued from page 1)

and playing terms on the consent decree and the "minority group of exhibitors who are responsible" for the decree, and lays at the door of distributors the responsibility for the demise last summer of the united exhibitor council to oppose theatre taxation.

The bulletin declares that exhibitor organization is "badly needed" to deal with both problems but that, in the final analysis, the solutions lie with the individual exhibitor and his local and state associations. These are again urged to make known their views on taxation to their representatives. The membership of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee, together controlling Federal taxation, are listed in the bulletin together with the home states and towns of all.

20th Will Release Peskay's 'Indians'

Twentieth Century-Fox will distribute the screen version, as yet untitled, of "Ten Little Indians," Broadway stage play. Popular Pictures, recently formed by Harry Popkin and Edward J. Peskay, is producing the film at the Samuel Goldwyn studios, Hollywood. Production is said to be budgeted at $1,200,000.

Britain to Film War in Burma

Plans for making films of the war in Burma for immediate release to newsreels both in England and the United States have been announced by the British Ministry of Information here. The films will have maps, charts, drawings and cartoons to support actual shots of the fighting, and supplementary diagrams to explain the strategy of the campaign.

Para., Exhibitors Talk Product Cuts

CHICAGO, Feb. 13.—Raw stock allocations and their effect on the product supply were the main topics at the Paramount exhibitor luncheon at the Palmer House here today. Optimism prevailed among the independents, the feeling being that such problems can be worked out through distributor-exhibitor meetings.

Should exhibitors face curtailed production schedules, repeats and request programs can fill the gaps, stated M. M. Rubens, division manager of the Publix-Great States circuit. He emphasized that such programs are apart from reissues, and involve the repetition of new product within a period of two to six months.

RKO Managers WLB Hearing Postponed

The Regional War Labor Board hearing in the contract dispute between RKO and the Motion Picture Theatre Operating Managers and Assistant Managers Guild, representing managers and assistant managers in the 40 RKO theatres in Metropolitan New York, scheduled for last Friday, has been postponed to next week.

Mack Buys DeVry Film Laboratory

CHICAGO, Feb. 13.—Irving Mack of Filmack Trailer Co. here has purchased the film printing laboratory of DeVry Corp., which has abandoned production of educational films for the duration.

A DeVry spokesman said lack of raw stock influenced the sale.

Variety Dines Sonz

CINCINNATI, Feb. 13.—The Variety Club here honored Eddie Sonz, local National Screen Service salesman, at a testimonial dinner here, yesterday. Sonz has been promoted to a new sales job in Chicago.

Weather, Holiday Bring Big Grosses At B'way First-Runs

(Continued from page 1)

advanced holiday admission price of $1.40, plus a quick turnover due to the 94-minute length time of the film, "The Princess" appears headed for a terrific $46,000 for its first week.

Coupled with a stage show featuring Milton Berle, "Hangover Square" finished its first week at the Roxy with a grand $103,000. The booking is limited to three weeks; "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" is set to open Feb. 28.

"A Song to Remember" continues to draw outstandingly at Radio City Music Hall where a big $123,000 is expected for a third week, better receipts than either the first or second weeks.

"The Three Caballeros," at the Globe, and "The Woman in the Window," at the Palace, are also drawing heavily. A smash $35,000 is expected for the second week of "Caballeros," after an initial week's $38,000 which set a new Globe house record. The third week of "The Woman in the Window" is expected to bring a big $38,000 at the Palace.

"Ministry of Fear," combined with a stage show featuring Johnny Long and band, brought the Paramount $74,000 for its initial week, which is good; the combination appears to be set for at least three weeks.

$60,000 at Strand

"Objective Burma" and a stage show featuring Artie Shaw and his band, at the Strand, and "The Thin Man Goes Home" with a stage show highlighting Frankie Carle and band, at the Capitol are continuing heavily in their third weeks. The Strand expects a big $60,000, and will continue with "Objective Burma," while the Capitol will get about $65,000 for an excellent third and final week of "The Thin Man"; "Guest in the House" and an 'in person' show featuring Ralph Edwards, Gloria Jean and Sonny Dunham and orchestra will open at the Capitol tomorrow.

"The Keys of the Kingdom" is holding up splendidly at the Rivoli, with a sturdy $35,000 expected for a seventh week. A mild $24,000 is indicated for "Roughly Speaking's" second week at the Hollywood. "The Chicago Kid" is drawing moderately at the Republic, with a first week's gross of $7,000 expected. "Mr. Emmanuel" is continuing to draw well at the Gotham, $12,000 being anticipated for a sixth week. "The Fighting Lady" is an outstanding grosser at the Victoria, with a big $24,000 recorded for a fourth week.

"Destiny" is expected to yield $7,000 for a second and final week at the Rialto; "Frisco Sal" will open there Friday. "Here Come the Co-Eds" will open at the Criterion Saturday with "The Suspect" exiting after two weeks and three days of moderate business, second week bringing about $21,500.

PCCITO Meet Mar. 13

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 13.—The Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners' annual meeting of trustees, has been set for March 13-15 at the Ambassador Hotel, here. Allied president Martin Smith, will attend.

S.R.O.
"INFANT-RY"

The troops that *always* win . . . They march through the highways and byways of your town . . . capture patrons . . . and deliver them to you as prisoners . . . Time has demonstrated them to be . . . the best Advertising soldiers . . . in all theatrical armies . . . They fight it out hand-to-hand . . . on doorsteps miles from your theatre . . . and right beside your box-office . . . They are seasoned veterans . . . with 25 years of training . . . And when ordered to spearhead a drive on *any* attraction . . . the infiltration to your empty seats begins promply . . . As these are soldiers that never "*soldier*" on the job.

NATIONAL *Screen* SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

SIGN THAT PLEDGE CARD!
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APARTMENTS

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Occupancy March 2, See **WARNER BROS.**

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 32 NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1945 TEN CENTS

Foreign Units Fortified by 67 Promotions

Additions Also Made to Get Ready for Postwar

By EDWARD SMITH

In a year, there have been 67 executive sales additions, promotions and changes made by all distributing companies in their foreign departments, both here and for assignment abroad, immediately or in the postwar, most of them made with an eye toward reestablishment in liberated countries or for strengthening foreign markets once the war is over.

A survey by *Motion Picture Daily* of these changes reveals that almost half of them, 33, were made for South America,

(*Continued on page* 5)

WPB Denies Raw Stock Lies Idle

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Charges that the U. S. film industry is being put on short raw-stock rations while 100,000,000 feet of film rejected by Russia is lying on docks awaiting disposition were denied here today by War Production Board spokesmen.

Declaring that, "we can spike that

(*Continued on page* 11)

First OWI Films Are Sent to the Pacific

The Office of War Information overseas film bureau, here, has received the first group of 40 Hollywood films from eight companies, to be selected for various Pacific areas, a spokesman for the bureau has revealed here. Selection is progressing satisfactorily, it was said, and they are being delivered regularly to the OWI.

Some of these films, it is understood, have already been shipped to the Philippines where, presumably, they are being shown.

The pattern of the OWI's Pacific film program is similar to that used in Europe, with films specially selected for the liberated Pacific area. The films, which will not necessarily be those chosen for Europe, have been

(*Continued on page* 5)

Rank's G.C.F. Corp. Holds 20 Per Cent Of Universal Stock

J. Arthur Rank's General Cinema Finance Corp. of London is the owner of 134,375 shares of Universal Pictures Corp. common stock, or approximately 20 per cent of the common outstanding, it is disclosed in the proxy statement sent to Universal stockholders yesterday.

Rank, a member of the Universal board, is proposed for reelection along with all other members at the annual meeting of company stockholders in Wilmington, Del., March 14. Other directors are: Nate J. Blumberg, Paul G. Brown, Daniel C. Collins, J. Cheever Cowdin, Preston Davie, William J. German, John J. O'Connor, Ottavio Prochet, Charles D. Prutz-

(*Continued on page* 5)

Reagan Honored at Chicago Luncheon

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, was welcomed here yesterday at a luncheon given in his honor at the Palmer House, attended by 150 persons, including theatre and circuit executives of this area, Paramount executives, friends and press representatives. The luncheon was in the nature of a "homecoming" for Reagan, who formerly was manager of the Chicago district.

Reagan was commended by Rev. John Cavanaugh, CSC, vice-president of Notre Dame University, of which Reagan is an alumnus.

Paramount executives in addition to

(*Continued on page* 11)

Milder Heads W.B. International Corp.

London, Feb. 14. — Max Milder has become president of Warner International Corp., it was learned here today with Milder's arrival from New York. He is also Warners' managing director for the United Kingdom.

There was no president named when the company's foreign subsidiary corporation was set up a few months ago; named vice-presidents at the time were: Joseph Hummell, Wolfe Cohen, Karl MacDonald and J. J. Glynn.

3-Month Tour For Connors

Tom Connors, 20th Century-Fox distribution vice-president, will meet with the company's New York salesmen and bookers today in the fifth of a series of visits to the branch offices in connection with 20th-Fox's 30th anniversary. Returning from Detroit and Chicago at the weekend, Connors met with the staffs at New Haven Monday, Boston, Tuesday, and Albany, yesterday, accompanied by Central sales manager L. J. Schlaifer.

Connors' 'business-building crusade,' scheduled to cover all U. S. branches by the end of April, is being devoted to listing field 'musts' for the year and to an inspection of the status of accounts in every zone.

Next Monday, accompanied by

(*Continued on page* 11)

Toronto Theatres May Be Closed 2 Days Per Week

TORONTO, Feb. 14.—Word from the Federal Fuel Controller, with an additional warning from Mayor Robert Saunders of Toronto, indicates that theatres in the Toronto district and, possibly elsewhere in Ontario, may be called upon to close two days weekly for the balance of the Winter because of the shortage of anthracite coal.

Declaring the situation critical, in answer to a suggestion that theatres burn bituminous coal, of which there is an available quantity, officials asserted that householders may be forced to turn to soft coal for heating and this must be conserved, too.

A Federal order was issued today restricting delivery of any coal to one ton at one time.

Strike Shuts FP-C Winnipeg Theatres

Toronto, Feb. 14.—All theatres of Famous Players-Canadian and its subsidiary Western Theatres, Ltd., were reported closed today in Winnipeg when a strike was called by projectionists. R. B. Russell, representing the organization called One Big Union, said the issue involved an effort to force projectionists at three theatres to quit that union and join an International Operators local.

New Needs Halt War-Theatre Construction

WPB Priorities Useless For New Houses

The strained manpower and materials situation brought about by the stepped up war production program has forced the abandonment of construction of partly built priority theatres in war manufacturing areas and generally precludes the starting of any new building in any such areas, it is learned here.

War Production Board approval to construct war-area theatres provides only an A-3 priority, it is said, and does not enable a builder in most instances to secure the required materials; the Army, Navy and war plants hold A-1 priorities

(*Continued on page* 5)

Distributors Seek Arthur Dismissal

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 14.—Motions to dismiss the injunction and damage suit of Harry Arthur, Jr., and his St. Louis Amusement Co. against the Government consent decree, were filed in U. S. District Court here today by the distributor defendants and the

(*Continued on page* 11)

Will Sue Unions for St. Louis Strike

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 14.—Louis K. Ansell, chairman of the St. Louis Motion Picture Exhibitors Committee, discloses that the committee has definitely decided to bring suit for damages against the unions responsible for the film strike here last December,

(*Continued on page* 11)

In This Issue

Reviews of "Keep Your Powder Dry" and "Circumstantial Evidence" appear on page 4; "The Spell of Amy Nugent," "Fog Island" and "Sagebrush Heroes," page 8. *Motion Picture Daily's* booking chart appears on page 10.

Perkins Manager of Altec Engineering

Carleton S. Perkins has been appointed manager of commercial engineering for Altec Service Corp., with headquarters in New York, replacing Don L. Turner, resigned.

Perkins, a graduate of Worcester, Mass., Polytechnic Institute, with the degree of E.E., was district supervisor of the Boston district with Electrical Research Products, and maintained this position when the latter company's sound service activities were taken over by Altec. Since Sept., 1942, Perkins has been manager of the electronic division of Altec.

Harris Here on Plans For Radio Academy

Buck Harris, associate director of Lee and Losh, Hollywood public relations firm, is in New York conferring with radio industry heads on the first draft of a report on the advisability and possibility of establishing in the radio industry an organization comparable to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Lee and Losh were hired by NBC, CBS and the Blue network to investigate the possibilities for an all-industry air "academy." He stated yesterday the entire project will be completely out of the hands of any one or several groups to control. During the balance of this week, Harris will meet with representatives of the American Federation of Radio Actors, Radio Writers and Directors Guilds, National Association of Broadcasters, NBC, CBS, Blue, Mutual, and others.

MGM to Sell 'Velvet' As a Special: Rodgers

"National Velvet" will be sold as an M-G-M special on a separate contract, it was announced here yesterday by William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager. Test engagements in 10 cities were played before the decision was made.

This makes three specials since the beginning of this year, the others being "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" and "Meet Me in St. Louis."

Reisman in London At RKO Sales Meet

LONDON, Feb. 14.—Phil Reisman, RKO vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, is here from New York attending the United Kingdom sales conference of the company, being held at the Dorchester House.

Robert S. Wolff, RKO United Kingdom manager, is presiding.

Another Hochstein Delay

The trial of Harry Hochstein, former morals inspector in Chicago, and the sentencing of Isadore Nevin, former bookkeeper for George E. Browne, ex-president of the IATSE, both of whom were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury for alleged perjury in the Bioff-Browne proceedings, were again postponed yesterday to March 12, by Judge Grover C. Moscowitz in New York Federal Court.

Personal Mention

SPYROS SKOURAS, 20th Century-Fox president, is scheduled to arrive from the Coast tomorrow.

•

LEE KAMERN, former manager of the Astor Theatre, New York, is now a First Lieutenant in the Marines and is stationed in Washington after having served for 26 months in the Pacific area.

•

SAM LEFKOWITZ, United Artists New York district manager, is in Scranton today for conferences, with JOHN NOLAN of the Comerford circuit. He is accompanied by MORT MAGILL, Philadelphia branch manager.

•

J. J. O'LEARY, president of Comerford Theatres, has been appointed chairman of the commercial and theatres division of the 1945 Red Cross War Fund Campaign in Lackawanna County, Pa.

•

JOSEPH COMERFORD, quartermaster 2/c USNR, nephew of the late M. B. COMERFORD, former general manager of the Comerford circuit, has become engaged to BARBARA HOWARD.

•

NUNNALLY JOHNSON, International Pictures producer-writer, will arrive in New York today accompanied by MRS. JOHNSON. They will go to Georgia to visit his family later.

•

JOEL SWENSEN, Warner Bros.' New York researcher, and MRS. SWENSEN became the parents of a second son, ERIK, born in Stamford (Conn.) Hospital yesterday.

•

PVT. BOB BRANTON, former booker at the Minneapolis Warner exchange, was wounded in action with General Patton's army in Germany Jan. 23.

•

MOE SILVER, Warner Theatres Pittsburgh zone manager, and HARRY FEINSTEIN, his assistant, are in New York.

•

E. L. McEVOY, Universal short subject sales manager, is on a tour of all Universal branch offices.

•

LARRY KENT, 20th Century-Fox representative on the Gaumont British board, has arrived in London.

•

JOCK LAWRENCE, J. Arthur Rank's American publicity head, has arrived in London.

•

SIR ALEXANDER KORDA and BEN GOETZ will arrive in New York from the Coast tomorrow.

LEON FROMKESS, PRC president, will leave Hollywood for New York today.

•

ROBERT KILCULLEN, formerly of the Comerford Theatres booking department, now in the Army Air Force, was marired last week to JEANNE DOOLEY of Scranton, Pa.

•

CHARLES RICH, Warners' Cleveland district manager, visited in Pittsburgh recently with Eastern division manager JULES LAPIDUS and Pittsburgh branch manager DINTY MOORE.

•

JACK KIRBY, district manager for Paramount at Atlanta, has recovered from a recent illness and is on a business trip to Miami and Jacksonville, Fla.

•

HARRY GRAHAM, Southern division manager of Universal Film Exchange, is in New Orleans to install E. L. O'NEAL as branch manager.

•

JAMES SEILER, auditor for the William Goldman Theatres, Philadelphia, and ISABEL SHAROIAN were married in that city last week.

•

OLLIE WILLIAMSON, former Atlanta branch manager for Warners, now a lieutenant (jg) in the Navy, is home on leave.

•

MORT SPRING, Loew's home office foreign department official, will leave the Coast for New York today.

•

JACK LORENTZ, 20th-Fox Midwest district manager, is in Detroit from Chicago.

•

GEORGE SHENKER, owner of the Lorain Theatre, Lorain, O., is convalescing from a heart attack.

•

R. J. INGRAM, Southern division manager for Columbia, is visiting Nashville from Atlanta.

•

ISADOR M. RAPPAPORT, owner of the Hippodrome, Baltimore, has returned to that city from a Florida vacation.

•

LUDWIG SIEGAL, veteran Chicago exhibitor, has retired from business.

•

JAMES MCGOVERN, Paramount auditor, is in Atlanta.

•

LT. COMDR. WALLACE BEERY, USNR, is here from Hollywood.

•

HARRY SHERMAN has left Hollywood for the East.

ITT Gets 'Africa'

International Theatrical and Television Corp. has purchased "Africa Speaks" for world distribution in 16mm and 35mm, it was reported here by George A. Hirliman, president. The film will be rented in 16mm form through Walter O. Gutlohn, Inc., an ITT subsidiary.

Dividend Action Today

A special meeting of 20th Century-Fox's board of directors today is expected to declare the regular quarterly dividend of $1.12½ on prior preferred stock, 37½ cents on preferred, and an undetermined amount on common.

Coming Events

Today—Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Association's annual luncheon and election of officers.

Today—Industry Red Cross luncheon, University Club, New York.

Feb. 17—Presentation of Marconi Plaque to Television Broadcasters Association, Hotel Astor New York.

Feb. 18—'One World' Awards Dinner and presentations to Darryl F. Zanuck, Brig. General Sarnoff, Kent Cooper, Hotel Astor, New York.

Feb. 19-20—Paramount regional sales meeting, New York.

Feb. 20—Warner Brothers annual stockholders' meeting, Wilmington.

Feb. 20.—Industry Red Cross breakfast, Waldorf-Astoria, New York.

Feb. 21—20th Century-Fox Family Club Dance, City Center Casino, New York.

Feb. 23—Industry Red Cross drive regional meetings at: Boston, Washington, Detroit, Charlotte, Memphis, Chicago, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles.

Feb. 24—Industry Red Cross drive regional meetings at: New Haven, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Oklahoma City, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Denver, San Francisco.

Feb. 25.—Industry Red Cross drive regional meetings at: Albany, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, New Orleans, Dallas, Milwaukee, Des Moines, Portland.

Feb. 26—Industry Red Cross drive regional meetings at: Buffalo, Cleveland, Omaha, Seattle.

Feb. 26-27—Paramount regional sales meeting, Philadelphia.

Waters Leaving Coe, To Join Belding

Fred Waters, for the past 13 years Donahue and Coe account executive in charge of Loew's theatre advertising in the New York area, will shortly join the staff of Foote, Cone and Belding, where he will function in a similar capacity on the RKO account.

For 10 years prior to his affiliation with Donahue and Coe, Waters was associated with the J. P. Muller agency.

Para. Has 25 Films Ready for Shooting

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 14.—Paramount has 25 features being prepared for filming. Of these, 17 will be produced by Henry Ginsberg. The others will cover four from Hal Wallis, three by Pine-Thomas Productions, and one by B. G. De Sylva.

Crossbay to Open Feb. 22

The Crossbay Theatre, Brooklyn, will be opened on Feb. 22 by E. M. Loew of Boston, Sol Edwards, film buyer for Allied Management, has announced. George Steiner will manage.

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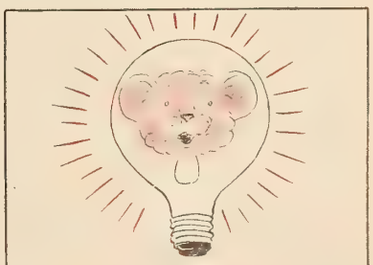
"WE DON'T HAVE TO EAT OUR WORDS!"

We said "MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS" and "NATIONAL VELVET" are COLOSSAL! GREAT!

Yes, indeed! "Meet Me In St. Louis," the Gold-mine of 1945, holds over 2 weeks, 3 weeks and more!

"National Velvet" (all-time Champ of the Music Hall) is a true Champ in its first nationwide dates: Miami, Indianapolis, Salt Lake City, Des Moines—all of them COLOSSAL! GREAT!

(***Flash!*** Los Angeles, Philadelphia and other openings ditto!)



BEAT THE BROWN-OUT! LIGHT UP WITH LEO!

Sign That Pledge Card!
Red Cross Drive—March 15-21

Blue Network Adds 3 Vice-Presidents

Election by the board of Blue Network's American Broadcasting Co., of Fred Smith, director of advertising, publicity and promotion; C. P. Jaeger, general sales manager, and Charles E. Rynd, former treasurer, as vice-presidents, and the creation of a department of news and news features has been announced here.

Robert E. Kintner, vice-president, will be in charge of the new department, which will be responsible for all news and news features presentations and for national and international coverage of news events. G. W. (Johnny) Johnstone will continue in his present capacity as director of news and news features. The board also voted to reorganize and expand the Blue's Washington office, which will also be in charge of Kintner. The publicity department, formerly under Kintner, will report to Smith, with Earl Mullin continuing as manager of the publicity department.

Rynd, former treasurer of the company, will act as coordinator of intra-department operations, in addition to other new duties, while C. Nicholas Priaulx, vice-president in charge of finance, has been elected treasurer.

To Start Laboratory Labor Talks Today

Negotiations on a new contract for some 2,000 Eastern laboratory technicians and others represented by IATSE Motion Picture Laboratory Technicians Local 702 are scheduled to get underway at Warners' home office here this afternoon. Contracts between the technicians and the seven major processing laboratories and dozen small companies have been readjusted to expire at the same time, next March 10.

In an effort to provide more work for regular union members who have been hit by curtailments in raw stock processing, Local 702 is expected to ask the companies to drop all new workers who were added during the war emergency period and were not granted union membership.

3 Field Supervisors Appointed by Warner

Three new supervisory appointments in Warners' film checking service are announced by R. P. Hagen, manager of this activity.

E. A. Richards, formerly assistant supervisor in Denver, has been promoted to field supervisor for Salt Lake City and Denver, with headquarters in the latter city; J. J. Cooney, formerly Salt Lake supervisor, becomes supervisor in Minneapolis, succeeding C. E. McCarthy; V. J. Newfield has been appointed supervisor for the Washington, D. C., territory, replacing R. S. Slater.

'Depinet Drive' Meet Mar. 17

CLEVELAND, Feb. 14.—RKO's second Ned Depinet Drive meeting will be held here on March 17 at the Statler Hotel, with branch managers, office managers and sales personnel of Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit and Indianapolis exchanges attending. Capt. Bob Folliard will preside.

Reviews

"Keep Your Powder Dry"

(M-G-M)

Hollywood, Feb. 14

THE names of Lana Turner, Laraine Day and Susan Peters assuredly may be depended upon—although a strong he-name alongside would have helped considerably—to get plenty of people into the theatre to witness and benefit by this presentation of Women's Army Corps training, its details and objectives, by way of a story which differs mainly in gender from the original formula for service-pictures. Miss Turner portrays the 'playboy' recruit in whom Army discipline effects a change for the better; Miss Day plays the serious soldier in constant conflict with the recalcitrant; and Miss Peters is seen as the solid friend of both whose influence accounts finally for the service success of her comrades. Response of a preponderantly 'teen-age audience attending the Hollywood preview was of a kind to suggest that the picture will do nice business.

As scripted by the able Mary McCall, Jr., and George Bruce, the formula is beneficiary of some well-conceived switches. The recruits do not compete romantically, but mainly in matters military, and, secondarily, on the point of ethics. Instead of a lush romance in the foreground of the story, a quiet one between the third recruit and her soldier husband, whose death provides a tragic note near the end of the story, is utilized. These variations go quite a way toward giving the story freshness.

Production by George Haight is altogether competent, and direction by Edward Buzzell keeps the performances on high ground in almost all instances, a bit of overplaying in an emotional interlude late in the film being chargeable perhaps to players and writers as soundly as to direction. Maybe audiences less dominated by collegians than the one observed for the purposes of this report will take this stretch of overdramatization in stride.

The supporting cast includes: Agnes Moorehead, Bill Johnson, Natalie Schaefer, Lee Patrick, Jess Barker, June Lockhart, Marta Linden, Tim Murdock, Henry O'Neill, Mary Lord, Sandra Rodgers, Marjorie Davies, Rex Evans, Pierre Watkin, Shirley Patterson and Michael Kirby.

The principal setting is the WAC training center at Fort Des Moines, and the time is now, or any time since its establishment.

Running time, 94 minutes. General classification. Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"Circumstantial Evidence"

(20th Century-Fox)

COMING boldly and intelligently to grips with problems inherent in the possibilities of convicting innocent men on the basis of unreliable circumstantial evidence, this 20th Century-Fox film, produced by William Girard as a modest-budgeter, and featuring Michael O'Shea and Lloyd Nolan, provides both good film entertainment and a message over which audiences can ponder. John Larkin's capable direction serves to deliver the full impact of the message appealingly in the simple story of a hot-headed factory foreman who is well on his way to the electric chair for murder before the fallacy of the evidence upon which he was convicted is exposed by his friends. Included in the nicely-balanced cast are: Trudy Marshall, Billy Cummings, Ruth Ford, Reed Hadley, Roy Roberts and Scotty Beckett.

O'Shea is the hot-headed factory foreman, the father of a motherless son of 12, who attacks a local baker who has been making trouble for the son. All signs point to the fact that O'Shea hit the baker with an axe and three reliable witnesses to the brawl so testify. O'Shea is convicted and sentenced to the electric chair but despite a misunderstanding, his devoted friend, Nolan, never abandons his fight to prove that the baker's death was accidental. Nolan finally establishes this fact through a clever experiment with the aid of O'Shea's son and some other boys who are members of the neighborhood club he sponsors. Some hectic moments follow the abandonment of all hope of a last-minute reprieve, when O'Shea escapes from prison. He manages to get back by a hair's breadth without being detected and is finally acquitted.

Credit for raising this film above average program fare goes to scripters Robert Metzler, who did the screen play; Samuel Ornitz, the adaptation, and Nat Ferber and Sam Duncan, the original story. Credit also goes to O'Shea and Nolan for fine performances and to young Cummings as the likeable and determined son fighting for his father's life. Girard has supplied an attractive production.

Running time, 68 minutes. General classification. To be released in March.

MILTON LIVINGSTON

Don Henshaw East

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 14.—Don Henshaw, representing the Canadian War Finance Committee, has returned East after two weeks of conferences in connection with production of "The All-Star Bond Rally," two-reeler featuring 10 stars, which will be made at 20th Century-Fox under War Activities Committee auspices for use in the Eighth Canadian Victory Loan.

Loew Meeting Mar. 29

Annual meeting of Loew's stockholders has been set for March 29.

Geraghty to Write Again

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 14.—Tom Geraghty, since June, 1942, a member of the Board of Review, here, U. S. Office of Censorship, has resigned to resume writing. No replacement is planned. Geraghty is the author of more than 100 original screen stories.

$15,345 for 'Dimes'

The seven Trans-Lux Theatres collected $15,345 for the 1945 March of Dimes, compared with $11,708 last year, Norman W. Elson, vice-president, reports.

Friedl 'Streamlines' Minnesota Circuit

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 14.—In a move designed to speed action on immediate problems, in various departments of the circuit, John J. Friedl, president of Minnesota Amusement Co., here, has streamlined the executive staff, and established a 'cabinet' of department heads to discuss operations and set plans and policies.

Under the re-arrangement Ev Seibel has been promoted to assistant advertising director, working under Charles Winchell, while William Ronning has been named assistant booker and buyer under John Branton. In announcing the promotions, Friedl said the two are given equal power with other executives in the 'cabinet' meetings.

SPG Elects Hirsch And Cohen to Posts

J. Albert Hirsch has been elected second vice-president and Charles Cohen, secretary of the Screen Publicists Guild of New York following receipt of final ballots from SPG members in the Armed Forces. Hirsch, SPG secretary last year, defeated Vivian Moses who was a candidate for reelection; Cohen defeated Fred Hodgson. The unanimous election of Harold Hochfeld as SPG president, Bob Ferguson as first vice-president and Charles Wright as treasurer was previously announced.

A further discussion on a possible affiliation of SPG with United Office and Professional Workers of America Local No. 1, CIO, will be held at the SPG meeting here tonight.

Symphonic Music in British Film Houses

Wartime conditions in Great Britain are taking symphonic music out of concert halls and placing it in music halls and film theatres, Dr. Malcolm Sargent, British symphonic conductor, disclosed during a luncheon given in his honor by National Broadcasting at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria here, yesterday. Dr. Sargent is here to conduct a series of four concerts by the NBC Symphony Orchestra.

Attending yesterday's luncheon were representatives of the radio and music press and NBC executives, including Frank Mullen, C. L. Menser, John F. Royal, Roy C. Witmer, A. L. Ashby, Dr. James Rowland Angell, Clay Morgan, and others.

Miss Davis Reelected By Coast Canteen

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 14.—Bette Davis has been reelected president of the Hollywood Canteen along with other incumbent officers, including J. K. Wallace, John Garfield, Mervyn LeRoy, Carroll Hollister and Mrs. John Ford, first to fifth vice-presidents, respectively; and, Jean Lewin, executive secretary, and Carey Wilson, treasurer.

Thomas to Join Ryan

Harold B. Thomas will join Thomas L. L. Ryan as a partner in the Pedler and Ryan advertising agency, here, effective March 1. Thomas, who is chairman of the War Advertising Council has resigned as a vice-president of Sterling Drug Inc. to join the agency.

Rank Controls 20% Of Universal Stock

(Continued from page 1)

man, Budd Rogers, Daniel M. Sheaffer, W. H. Taylor, Jr., and Cliff Work.

General Film Distributors, London, of which Rank is chairman of the board, distributes for Universal in Great Britain under a contract which runs to June 30, 1956.

Remuneration paid to officers and others as listed in the statement was as follows: Blumberg, $230,523; Cowdin, $230,523; O'Connor, $52,311; Prutzman, $131,879; Rogers, $24,169; Work, $160,479; Harold Brewster, assistant treasurer, $29,200; Sam Machnovitch, treasurer, $27,595; Adolph Schimel, assistant secretary, $22,950; W. A. Scully, vice-president, $147,479; Joseph H. Seidelman, vice-president, $131,879; Eugene Walsh, assistant treasurer, $22,950; Matthew Fox (in armed forces) $41,150, and Samuel Pinanski, (commissions on financing) $40,000.

Mayer Returns to Aid Industry Red Cross

Arthur Mayer, New York exhibitor and former treasurer of the War Activities Committee, is back in the United States to aid the industry's Red Cross 'War Fund Week' March 15-21. Mayer returned at the request of N. Peter Rathvon, national chairman, who directed a plea to Stanton Griffis, commissioner for the Red Cross, Pacific Ocean Area, under whom Mayer was serving.

Mayer, deputy commissioner for the Red Cross in the Pacific Ocean Area, has been in Hawaii since last October. He will be a speaker at the Waldorf Astoria Feb. 20, when the drive opens. Other speeches will be made in Chicago, Feb. 23; Philadelphia, Feb. 24; Pittsburgh, Feb. 25, and Cleveland, Feb. 26. Robert Mochrie and A. J. Lightman will accompany him to Chicago, and Rathvon and Scully to the other meetings.

IATSE Aids Films' Red Cross Week

The IATSE will support the industry's 1945 Red Cross 'War Fund Week,' March 15-21, it was revealed here by N. Peter Rathvon, national chairman. Rathvon has received a statement from Richard F. Walsh, international president of the IATSE, advising that "the efforts of you and your committee will receive the fullest support of the International Alliance and its local unions."

Construction Halted By New War Needs

(Continued from page 1)

and, as should be expected, they receive preference on available material.

It is also understood that the War Manpower Commission has stopped construction on many theatres by withdrawing construction workers being used and ordering them to more critical constructions.

Some war-area theatre builders have met the situation by acquiring all needed material, including theatre furnishings, before actually starting construction and by employing construction workers over 60 years of age and discharged servicemen who do not come under the WMC.

Foreign Units Get 67 Additions, Promotions

(Continued from page 1)

indicating that this market, which, prior to the war had been a subordinate one, will receive far more attention in the future.

A list of the personnel promotions, changes and appointments made is as follows:

Twentieth Century-Fox: Benjamin Miggins, manager of Continental Europe; H. J. Williamson, made manager in London, replacing Arthur Wesson; C. Stewart MacGregor, named manager of the Manchester branch, replacing Stanley E. Pink; Albert E. Eustace, manager at Cardiff, Wales; Raymond L. Rowe, promoted to general sales manager, from sales manager in Australia; Jack S. Mosselson, manager of the new Capetown, South Africa branch; Robert A. Kreier, assistant manager of Continental Europe; Louis Kanturek, Central and Eastern European manager; Mario Imporini, special representative in Europe; Arthur Silverstone, special home office representative, with headquarters in London; A. Rodriguez, agent for Monterrey, Mexico, replacing S. Goldschlag; Elliott McManus, acting manager in Panama, replacing Edward Cohen; Edward Cohen, supervisor of South America; L. J. Roa, manager at Medeillin, Colombia, replacing Miss L. Restrepo; Tomas A. Paredes, manager of the new Trujillo, Dominican Republic branch; Heinz Dieter Grund, manager in Curitiba, Brazil; Cesar Codebo, assistant sales manager in Argentina; Justo Echerenia, manager in Cordoba, Argentina; Geronimo Briasco, manager in Corrientes, Argentina; Italo J. Ginocchio, manager of Rosario, Argentina; Eric Burnett, manager in Valparaiso, Chile.

Warner Bros.

Warner changes include: Wolfe Cohen, Canadian general manager, made vice-president of Warner International, in charge of South America, New Zealand, Australia and the Far East; Joseph S. Hummel, former foreign sales manager, appointed vice-president of Warner International, in charge of Continental Europe, Near East and South Africa; Harry Novak, Argentina manager, resigned and was succeeded by Arthur S. Abeles, Jr., formerly in charge of Uruguay; Helio Wendhausen, formerly assistant Uruguay manager, made manager; Antonio Garcia, resigned as manager of Peru and was succeeded by Vincent Palmeri, former manager of Warner Theatres in Bridgeport, Conn.; Oscar Brooks, Mexican manager, resigned and was succeeded by Michael Sokol, former Panama manager; Lester Cohen, former Trinidad manager, made manager in Panama; Irvin Coval, manager in Montreal, made Trinidad manager; Ramon Fernandez, resigned as Colombia manager, and was succeeded by Stanley F. Gaiter; Jerome P. Sutton, made manager of the new office in South Africa.

Paramount

Paramount's changes were: Walter Cowan, appointed Near East representative; Robert Schless made European division manager, covering Continental Europe, Near East, and North Africa; Henri Michaud, made assistant to Schless; Elias Lapinere, made foreign public relations and advertising head; Clay V. Hake, special representative to South Africa; Robert L. Graham, made special representative with a roving assignment in Europe; A. L. Pratchett, division manager for South America; James E. Perkins, division manager of the Far East, covering Australia, New Zealand and South Africa; Albert Deane, made manager of foreign censorship and editing; Paul Ackerman, made director of foreign advertising and publicity.

In addition, Paramount has appointed Robert C. Alexander resident executive in Spain, and has closed a deal with Mercurio Films, S.A., for Spanish distribution of the company's films.

Loew's-MGM

Loew's-M-G-M changes were: Major Arthur Loew, first vice-president and head of Loew International, returned to the company from service; Leon Algranti and Jack Guggenheim, managers in Rome and Switzerland, respectively—they are now in the home office waiting to go to their territories; Robert D. Schoham, now manager in Puerto Rica, is waiting to return to his former post in Finland; Isidore Cohen, former Philippine Island manager, and a Jap exchange prisoner, manager in Trinidad, is also waiting to return; Ludwig Lawrence, former manager of Europe, transferred to North Africa, and India; Louis Lober, manager in Egypt and Palestine, and Charles Goldsmith, print traffic manager in New York, are holding executive positions with the OWI, and are expected back at the end of the war.

United Artists had only one change, Emanuel Silverstone being transferred from the domestic department to special foreign representative. UA is contemplating opening its own offices in Europe, rather than deal through agents when the war is over.

Columbia had two changes, the appointments of Bernard Birnbaum to assistant foreign controller, and Bernard Zeeman, named assistant manager of exchange operations, both from the same domestic posts.

Universal

Universal's changes were the appointment of Maurice Silverstein as Carribean manager, who later went to the OWI; Louis Foeldes, now Mexican manager, who was Eastern district manager in Europe, will probably return to that post. Several others now in domestic sales are expected to return to their foreign posts.

RKO appointments were: Robert Wolff, made managing director of the United Kingdom; Jack C. Osserman, former Chicago district manager, made manager in Brazil; Rene Beja, manager in Chile, formerly manager of a sub-branch in the Argentine, and Bert Reisman, resigned, and were replaced by Harry Davis. RKO also has some war prisoners who are expected to return upon their release.

Republic's changes were: Mario Feraboli, made manager in Peru—he was formerly manager of a sub-branch in the Argentine; Ricardo Canals, made manager in Colombia, formerly assistant manager of Panama; Carl Ponedel, made manager in Mexico, formerly manager in Puerto Rico; Jack R. Neal, made manager in Puerto Rico. Republic plans to expand to South America, and may open European offices instead of having its product handled by agencies.

Monogram's changes were: Dave Horne, made foreign auditor; Bernard J. Gates, made special representative to South America, and Jack Lamont, placed in charge in Mexico.

SAG-SPU Turn to Congress in Dispute

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 14.—Preliminary skirmishing in the jurisdictional conflict between the Screen Players Union and the Screen Actors Guild, scheduled for National Labor Relations Board Hearings in Washington Feb. 22, spread to Congress today when SAG dispatched telegrams to key legislators describing its background and asking it not be confused with SPU. The latter yesterday sent a letter to the judiciary committee and several individual congressmen, asking that they use their influence to prevent the NLRB from changing the terms of its certification of SPU as the bargaining agent for extras.

Nebraska Seeks a 2 Percent Sales Tax

OMAHA, Feb. 13.—A two per cent sales tax bill has been introduced in the Nebraska Legislature at Lincoln. This state has no sales tax, income tax, or bonded indebtedness at the present time. Sales under 15 cents are exempt from the bill, which would go into effect July 1. Chief backers are the Nebraska State Grange and the Nebraska School Boards Association.

Another pending bill would set clocks back an hour to pre-war time.

Philadelphia Ban on Theatre Coal Lifted

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 13.—With the improvements of both the city's supply of coal and the delivery system, Mayor Bernard Samuel has announced the lifting of the ban on shipment of rice coal to places of amusement. He stipulates, however, that not more than a seven-day supply may be delivered at any one time.

First OWI Films Are Sent to the Pacific

(Continued from page 1)

equipped with subtitles in appropriate languages, when necessary. OWI documentaries are being dubbed in Chinese and Japanese.

A special unit within the overseas branch of the OWI has been formed to carry out film distribution in the Far Eastern theatre, with Michael Burgher and Robert Perkins in charge.

SOEG Hearing Ends

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 14.—Final arguments in a suit seeking a permanent injunction restraining Screen Office Employes Guild from levying assessments on its membership for the purpose of financing political activity were heard by Superior Court Judge Henry M. Willis here today.

HE'S GOT PLEN

he just booked.

THE BIG

starring

ARTHUR LAKE · DALE EVANS

with

LIONEL STANDER · GEORGE MEEKER

PAUL HURST · MARJORIE MANNERS

and

ANSON WEEKS And His Orchestra

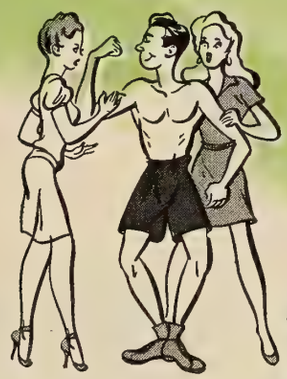
HOWARD BRETHERTON, Director · Original Screen Play by Leslie Vadnay and Richard Weil

Produced by Sydney M. Williams

A R E P U B L

TO BRAG ABOUT

SHOW-OFF



C P I C T U R E

Coast Filming Still Steady; 42 Are in Work

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 14.—The shooting index has climbed one notch to reach 42, compared to 41 features in work last week. Five new films went before cameras, and six others were completed. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Finished: "Boston Blackie Booked on Suspicion."

Shooting: "Over 21," "Kiss and Tell" (Sol Siegel).

M-G-M

Started: "Early to Wed," with Lucille Ball, Van Johnson, Esther Williams and Keenan Wynn.

Shooting: "Yolanda and the Thief," "The Harvey Girls," "Her Highness and the Bellboy," "Weekend at the Waldorf."

Monogram

Shooting: "The County Fair," "Flaming Frontier."

Paramount

Started: "Follow That Woman" (Pine-Thomas), with William Gargan, Nancy Kelly, Regis Toomey, Byron Barr.

Shooting: "The Well Groomed Bride," "You Came Along" (Hal Wallis), "Masquerade in Mexico," "Cross My Heart" (formerly "Too Good to Be True").

PRC

Finished: "Ladies of the Night" (formerly "Undercover Girl"), "The Enchanted Forest," "Stranger in the Family."

RKO Radio

Started: "First Man Into Tokyo," with Tom Neal, Barbara Hale, Keye Luke, Richard Loo, Marc Cramer.

Shooting: "The Most Dangerous Game," "George White's Scandals of 1945," "Man Alive," "Those Endearing Young Charms," "The Spanish Main," "Invisible Army."

Republic

Started: "Santa Fe Saddlemates," with Sunset Carson, Linda Stirling, Olin Howland.

Shooting: "The Amazing Mr. M," "Bells of Rosarita."

20th Century-Fox

Started: "Junior Miss," with Peggy Ann Garner, Fay Marlowe, Allyn Joslyn, Barbara Whiting, Michael Francis.

Shooting: "Caribbean Mystery," "Two-Faced Quilligan," "The Dolly Sisters," "State Fair," "Captain Eddie."

United Artists

Shooting: "Paris - Underground" (Bennett); "Captain Kidd" (Bogeaus).

Universal

Finished: "That's the Spirit."

Shooting: "Strange Confession," "The Naughty Nineties," "Lady on a Train," "A Night in Paradise."

Warners

Started: "Shadow of a Woman," with Andrea King, Helmut Dantine, Craig Stevens.

Shooting: "Too Young to Know," "This Love of Ours," "Mildred Pierce," "Three Strangers."

Independent

Shooting: "Ten Little Indians" (Popular Pictures, Inc.)

Reviews

"The Spell of Amy Nugent"

(PRC)

DESPITE the incredulity of its story, this British-made picture should do better than average business for followers of either the unique or mystery picture. The film deals with a psychological study of a young Englishman, being slowly driven out of his mind by a weird evil spirit which has taken possession of him in the shape and form of his dead sweetheart. The picture grows in its intensity with each succeeding reel until the climax, which is a considerable letdown.

Derek Farr, the Englishman, seeks to marry beneath his class, but after defying his mother and hastening to the side of his beloved, he finds that she has expired. Exhausted emotionally, he seeks balm through the manifestations of her spirit, which are given him by a spiritualist, Frederick Leister. His work in college slumps alarmingly, and from a good natured boy he gradually grows into a distraught maniacal man. His professor at college, and another girl who loves him, solve the presence of the evil spirit, through the media of prayer and love. Since, throughout the film, no indication of a reciprocal love was evidenced by Farr, the prosaic ending spoils a well-built mystery melodrama.

Production is by R. Murray-Leslie with Keith C. Drayson as associate. John Harlow did a good directorial job, from a semi-adequate screenplay by Miles Malleson. Photography was by Walter Harvey.

Running time, 63 minutes. General classification. Release date, Feb. 10.

EDWARD SMITH

"Fog Island"

(PRC)

Hollywood, Feb. 14

ADDICTS of the melodramatic will find their requirements well met in this personally-produced Leon Fromkess production. It has all the tried-and-true hair-raisers—concealed passages, doors that open without human agency, continual fog, and a crazed man seeking revenge.

The cast, which includes George Zucco, Lionel Atwill, Jerome Cowan, Sharon Douglas, Jacqueline DeWit and Ian Keith, is well chosen and competent. The fact that the blood-curdling story always seems credible is due in great part to skilled performances by the players and also to Terry Morse' direction, which sustains suspense but is never over-emphatic.

Pierre Gendron's screenplay, based on an original by Bernardine Angus, tells of a financier who, having been unjustly imprisoned due to the testimony of his associates, returns to society determined to revenge himself.

His determination is further strengthened by the fact that his wife has been murdered, and her killer never identified. The financier invites all those whom he suspects of the murder to spend the week-end with him on a remote and fog-bound island. Before the night is over, seven of the nine characters have met violent ends. Only the financier's step-daughter and the man she loves live to tell the tale, and a spine-chilling tale it is.

Running time, 70 minutes. General classification. Release date, Jan. 31.

THALIA BELL

"Sagebrush Heroes"

(Columbia)

Hollywood, Feb. 14

CHARLES STARRETT is the star of this Western with songs, which makes up for a lack of action with an unusually interesting story. He is ably seconded by Dub Taylor, while Jimmy Wakely and his 'Saddle Pals' supply the singing.

Luci Ward's original screenplay is laid in the present, and its villain is a smooth-talking fellow who runs what is purported to be a ranch for the rehabilitation of delinquent boys. When Starrett, in his role of the 'Durango Kid,' befriends one of these boys, he discovers that all is not as rosy as would seem on the surface. The boys are being systematically starved, ill-treated and over-worked, and the ranch itself is a blind for the cattle-rustling activities of its owner. The 'Durango Kid' and his friends manage to conceal microphones about the ranch-house, and thus trap the rancher into a full confession of his nefarious deeds.

Benjamin Kline directed for producer Jack Fier. George Meehan's photography is above par.

Running time, 54 minutes. General classification. Released, Feb. 1.

T. B.

Legion Classifies Ten New Productions

The National Legion of Decency has classified the following new pictures: A-1, "Beyond the Pecos," Universal; "The Lone Texas Ranger," "Sheriff of Cimarron," and "Topeka Terror," Republic; "Three Caballeros," RKO; "Thunderhead," 20th Century-Fox; A-2, "Steppin' in Society," Republic; Class B, "On Approval," Box - Brook - GFD; "The Shanghai Drama" (French), David Brill, and "The Vampire's Ghost," Republic.

Taylor, Short Will Produce Navy Films

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 14.—Comm. Hugh Jenkins, USN, and Lt. Comm. Paul Short, former head of the War Production Board's theatre division, and once an executive of National Screen Service, will collaborate here on a series of training films for the Navy. Lt. Robert Taylor will be production and technical assistant on the series, with Short as production advisor and "expeditor."

Both Taylor and Short were recently assigned to this post.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Feb. 14

ROBERT CUMMINGS has been signed by Hal Wallis, and will appear in "Don't Ever Grieve Me," Wallis' next for Paramount . . . 20th Century-Fox has lifted the options of actress Gene Tierney, director Lloyd Bacon, and actor John Russell . . . John Hoffman has been assigned by Universal to direct "Strange Confession," the next "Inner Sanctum" mystery-drama.

•

Scott R. Dunlap has signed Ralph Murphy to direct "Sunbonnet Sue," which will be one of Monogram's high-budget productions for 1944-45 . . . Director Robert Florey has had his Warner contract renewed . . . Universal producer-director George Waggner has signed Curt Siodmak to write an original to star Susanna Foster. It will be filmed in color, with the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 as a background.

•

Headed by "The Bells of St. Mary's," starring Bing Crosby and to be produced and directed by Leo McCarey, RKO will send six pictures before the cameras this month. Among the others are "First Man Into Tokyo," which J. Robert Bren will produce and Gordon Douglas will direct; "The Most Dangerous Game," starring John Loder, and "The Falcon in San Francisco."

•

Pine-Thomas has borrowed Marjorie Reynolds from Paramount to star in "Follow That Woman" . . . M-G-M has purchased MacKinlay Kantor's "Romance of Rosy Ridge" and assigned it to Jack Cummings to produce. Another recent M-G-M purchase is "Victoria," by Knut Hamsen . . . Tanis Chandler has been signed by RKO, and will make her film debut in "George White's Scandals of 1945."

•

Marjorie Riordan has been assigned the second feminine lead in "Three Strangers," now in production at Warners . . . Jay Norris has been contracted by Paramount for "The Well-Groomed Bride," which will star Sonny Tufts.

Al Dubin, 54, Was Hollywood Lyricist

Al Dubin, 54, lyricist for scores of many motion pictures and Academy Award winner with Harry Warren in 1935, died here recently at the Hotel Roosevelt after a brief illness.

Dubin was one of the first lyricists to desert 'Tin Pan Alley' for Hollywood, where, from 1930, he turned out many songs, mostly for Warners. The number for which he and Warren, composer, won the Academy Award was "Lullaby of Broadway."

Arthur Pacy Dies

BALTIMORE, Feb. 14.—Funeral services were held here yesterday for Arthur Pacy, 61, former manager of the Garden, who died following a heart attack. Pacy had been associated with his brother, Walter, owner of the Garden, McHenry and Casino theatres.

LATEST CROSSLEY: 14,672,000 people listen

to CRIME DOCTOR every Sunday night...

one of the greatest records ever made by

a mystery show in radio history!

CRIME DOCTOR is now CBS' #1 mystery program

...and here's the greatest CRIME DOCTOR picture of them all!

WARNER BAXTER

in Columbia Pictures'

The Crime Doctor's Courage

WITH
HILLARY BROOKE
JEROME COWAN
ROBERT SCOTT
STEPHEN CRANE

Based on the popular CBS Radio Program "Crime Doctor" by Max Marcin
Story and Screen Play by Eric Taylor · Produced by RUDOLPH C. FLOTHOW · Directed by GEORGE SHERMAN

COLUMBIA PICTURES

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Jan. 20	EADIE WAS A LADY Ann Miller Joe Besser Hal McIntyre and Orchestra C—67 mins. (6014) I LOVE A MYSTERY Jim Bannon Barton Yarborough Nina Foch D—69 mins. (6024)	(Special Release) MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS (Color) Judy Garland Margaret O'Brien M—113 mins. (512) (Rev. 11/1/44)	ADVENTURES Of KITTY O'DAY Jean Parker D—63 mins. (420) (Rev. 12/8/44)	(Special Reissue) THE SIGN OF THE CROSS Fredric March Claudette Colbert D—118 mins. (4432) (Rev. 8/23/44)		GRISSLY'S MILLIONS Paul Kelly Virginia Grey D—71 mins. (409) (Rev. 1/15/45)	(Special) THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE (Goldwyn) (Color) Bob Hope Virginia Mayo C—94 mins. (551) (Rev. 10/11/44)	(Jan. Release) KEYS OF THE KINGDOM Gregory Peck Thomas Mitchell D—137 mins. (514) (Rev. 12/13/44) THE FIGHTING LADY (Color) (documentary) 61 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/21/44)	MR. EMMANUEL (British) Felix Aylmer Greta Gynt D—92 mins. (Rev. 1/4/45)	UNDER WESTERN SKIES Martha O'Driscoll Noah Beery, Jr. Leo Carrillo O—57 mins. (9039) (Rev. 1/3/45)	TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT Humphrey Bogart Lauren Bacall D—100 mins. (410) (Rev. 10/11/44)
Jan. 27	SAGEBRUSH HEROES Charles Starrett O—54 mins. (6204)	(Tenth Block) MAIN STREET AFTER DARK Edward Arnold Selena Royle D—57 mins. (514) (Rev. 11/28/44)	JADE MASK Sidney Toler D—66 mins. (417)	(Second Block) FRENCHMAN'S CREEK (Color) Joan Fontaine Arturo de Cordova D—113 mins. (4408) (Rev. 9/20/44)		THE BIG SHOW-OFF Arthur Lake Dale Evans C—70 mins. (410) (Rev.1/16/45) THE TOPEKA TERROR Allan Lane Linda Stirling D—55 mins. (464) (Rev. 1/25/45)	(Special Release) BELLE OF THE YUKON (International) (Color) Randolph Scott Gypsy Rose Lee Dinah Shore C—84 mins. (583) (Rev. 11/29/44)			THE SUSPECT Charles Laughton Ella Raines Dean Harens D—85 mins. (9010) (Rev. 12/22/44)	
Feb. 3	SING ME A SONG OF TEXAS Rosemary Lane Hal McIntyre Orch. M—66 mins. (6221)	MUSIC FOR MILLIONS Margaret O'Brien Jose Iturbi M—118 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/13/44)	FOREVER YOURS Gale Storm C. Aubrey Smith D—83 mins. (Rev. 12/13/44) CISCO KID RETURNS Duncan Renaldo O—64 mins. (429)	MINISTRY OF FEAR Ray Milland Marjorie Reynolds D—84 mins. (4410) (Rev. 10/18/44) THE MAN IN HALF-MOON STREET Nils Asther Helen Walker D—92 mins. (4407) (Rev. 10/17/44)	HIS BROTHER'S GHOST O—54 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) MARKED FOR MURDER O—58 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) KID SISTER Judy Clark D—56 mins. (Rev. 2/2/45)		(Special Release) THE THREE CABALLEROS (Disney) (Color) M—71 mins. (591) (Rel. 12/12/44)	(Feb. Release) A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN Dorothy McGuire Joan Blondell D—128 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/24/45) HANGOVER SQUARE Laird Cregar Linda Darnell D—77 mins. (516) (Rev. 1/17/45)		HER LUCKY NIGHT Andrews Sisters Martha O'Driscoll M—63 mins. (Rev. 1/29/45)	
Feb. 10	TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT (Color) Rita Hayworth Janet Blair Lee Bowman M—92 mins. (Rev. 1/25/45) LEAVE IT TO BLONDIE Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C	BLONDE FEVER Philip Dorn Mary Astor C—69 mins. (516) (Rev. 11/28/44)	GUN SMOKE Johnny Mack Brown O—57 mins. (455) (Rev. 1/19/45)	AND NOW TOMORROW. Loretta Young Alan Ladd D—85 mins. (4406) (Rev. 10/17/44)	SPELL OF AMY NUGENT (English) Derek Farr D—63 mins.		(Third Block) WHAT A BLONDE Leon Errol Elaine Riley C—71 mins. (511) (Rev. 1/29/45)			THE HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN Boris Karloff John Carradine D—71 mins. (9013) (Rev. 12/22/44) THE MUMMY'S CURSE Lon Chaney D—60 mins. (9036) (Rev. 12/22/44)	OBJECTIVE, BURMA Errol Flynn D—144 mins. (411) (Rev. 1/26/45)
Feb. 17	A SONG TO REMEMBER (Color) Paul Muni Merle Oberon Cornel Wilde D—113 mins. (Rev. 1/18/45)	THIS MAN'S NAVY Wallace Beery James Gleason D—98 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/4/45)	DILLINGER Elisha Cook Jr. Lawrence Tierney D—70 mins.	ONE BODY TOO MANY Jack Haley Jean Parker C—76 mins. (4409) (Rev. 10/18/44)	FOG ISLAND Lionel Atwill George Zucco D	GREAT STAGECOACH ROBBERY Wild Bill Elliot Bobby Blake O—56 mins. (3317)	THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE Dorothy McGuire Robert Young Herbert Marshall D—92 mins. (515) (Rev. 2/14/45)			FRISCO SAL Susanna Foster Turhan Bey M—94 mins.	
Feb. 24	THE CRIME DOCTOR'S COURAGE Warner Baxter Hilary Brooke D	BETWEEN TWO WOMEN Van Johnson Lionel Barrymore D—82 mins. (518) (Rev. 12/21/44)		(Third Block) HERE COME THE WAVES Bing Crosby Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts M—97 mins. (4411) (Rev. 12/18/44)	HOLLYWOOD AND VINE James Ellison Wanda McKay D	SONG FOR MISS JULIE Shirley Ross Cheryl Walker M—69 mins. (411)	HAVING WONDERFUL CRIME George Murphy Pat O'Brien Carole Landis C—70 mins. (514)	THUNDERHEAD SON OF FLICKA Roddy McDowall Preston Foster O—78 mins. (518) (Rev. 2/1/45)		SUDAN (Color) Maria Montez Jon Hall Turhan Bey D	ROUGHLY SPEAKING Rosalind Russell Jack Carson D—128 mins. (412) (Rev. 1/31/45)
Mar. 3	A GUY, A GAL AND A PAL Ross Hunter Lynn Merrick Ted Donaldson D	NOTHING BUT TROUBLE Laurel and Hardy C—69 mins. (519) (Rev. 12/5/44)	GI HONEY-MOON Gale Storm Peter Cookson D—70 mins. (406)	DANGEROUS PASSAGE Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4412) (Rev. 12/21/44) FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS (Color) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—158 mins. (4413) (Rev. 7/15/43)	THE MAN WHO WALKED ALONE Dave O'Brien Kay Aldridge O (Rev. 2/2/45)		PAN-AMERICANA Phillip Terry Audrey Long Robert Benchley D—84 mins. (513) BETRAYAL FROM THE EAST Lee Tracy Nancy Kelly D—82 mins. (512)	CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE Lloyd Nolan Michael O'Shea D—67 mins. (519)		SEE MY LAWYER Olsen and Johnson Grace McDonald C—69 mins. (Rev. 2/6/45)	
Mar. 10				PRACTICALLY YOURS Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray C—90 mins. (4414) (Rev. 12/15/44)	SHADOWS OF DEATH Buster Crabbe O (Rev. 1/25/45)		(Special Release) THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW Edward Robinson Joan Bennett D—99 mins. (582) (Rev. 10/10/44)			THE HOUSE OF FEAR Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce D I'LL REMEMBER APRIL Gloria Jean Kirby Grant M—64 mins. SWING OUT SISTER Rod Cameron Billie Burke C—60 mins.	HOTEL BERLIN Faye Emerson Helmut Dantine Raymond Massey D—(413)
Mar. 17	ROUGH RIDIN' JUSTICE Chas. Starrett Betty Jane Graham				STRANGE ILLUSION Jimmy Lydon Warren William D		(Special Release) IT'S A PLEASURE International (Color) Sonja Henie Michael O'Shea 90 mins (584)				
Mar. 24	ROUGH, TOUGH AND READY Victor McLaglen Chester Morris D			DOUBLE EXPOSURE Chester Morris Nancy Kelly D—63 mins. (4415) (Rev. 12/21/44)							
Mar. 31		KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY Lana Turner Laraine Day D—123 mins. (520)									

Distributors Seek Arthur Dismissal

(*Continued from page* 1)

American Arbitration Association. The distributors allege the St. Louis action was brought to supersede the New York consent decree suit in an effort to make the St. Louis court "a court of appeals." It is also charged the action is defective since the Government is not made a party to it, and the motion alleges that St. Louis Amusement Co. is stopped from proceeding now, since it submitted to jurisdiction in theatre actions here.

The AAA also charges the action is a collateral attachment on the New York case, and is in error in not making the Government a party to the proceedings, and that the plaintiff's complaint does not set forth sufficient facts to warrant a cause of action.

Motions will be heard by Federal Judge Richard M. Duncan, when he returns to Washington, where he is temporarily assigned as a district judge. He is expected back in about a month. It is reported that Seymour North, New York attorney, will come here to argue the motion for the distributors.

Will Sue Unions for St. Louis Strike

(*Continued from page* 1)

during which some 75 per cent of theaters in St. Louis and St. Louis county were closed.

At that time the committee estimated damages to the closed theaters as a result of the strike would amount to approximately $200,000. The committee is now collecting data on the losses of individual theaters and the suit will be filed when this information is assembled, Ansell explained.

Unions which will be name defendants, according to present plans, are the projectionists and Film Exchange Employe's locals B-1 and F-1.

WPB Denies Raw Stock Lies Idle

(*Continued from page* 1)

one easily," a WPB representative said that Russia could not have rejected 100,000,000 feet of film because it has not been given that much. During the current quarter the USSR is getting some 30,000,000 feet, the largest allotment yet granted that country, and so far as the Board knows the stock is moving out, it was said.

It was pointed out that all export allocations during this quarter are considerably less than 100,000,000 feet, and so far as the Board knows, it was stated, there is not 1,000 feet "lying around loose."

While WPB officials said that all raw stock allocated by them for outward shipment is being accounted for, it was suggested in other quarters that the military might have some film packed and on docks awaiting transport.

Munson, Hubbell Report

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 14.—Col. E. L. Munson, Jr., Chief of the Army Pictorial Service, and Major John W. Hubbell, head of the Army Overseas Motion Picture Service, will present official reports to the industry on Feb. 20 at the Carthay Circle Theatre, following conferences with trade leaders.

Frozen Admission Prices Boost Grosses in Italy

Freezing of admission prices in Italian theatres to the normal scale prevailing before the war has contributed to unprecedented business being experienced by Italian exhibitors, with attendance 10 to 15 times greater than normally, Master Sergeant William M. Levy, film adviser to the director of Psychological Warfare Branch, Allied Force Headquarters in Italy, declared here in an interview yesterday. Sgt. Levy is in New York on a 30-day furlough after two and a half years abroad.

Price freezing was successfully executed by PWB in North Africa and Northern France when those territories were under its control, Sgt. Levy said. Theatres in Italy are 'jammed' from morning to night, thereby achieving the goal of reaching the largest number of people in a liberated territory with films depicting the Allied war effort and way of life, he said.

Although, unlike France, PWB still retains control of film operations in Italy, the sergeant asserted, it was ready to turn it back to U. S. companies as soon as it is satisfied that they are in a position to assume control. Difficulties confronting distribution, notably transportation, have not made it feasible for private companies to resume distribution in Italy, he said.

Little physical destruction has been done to Italian theatres, Sgt. Levy added. PWB is now servicing 1,600 theatres in Italy and Sicily. In most instances, theatres were reopened 24 to 48 hours after a town had been liberated. A typical program consists of the Allied newsreel, "Mondo Libro," jointly produced by the Office of War Information and the British Ministry of Information, United Nations' documentaries, and a feature picture.

PWB has secured the cooperation of the entire Italian film industry, Sgt. Levy said. The 40 Hollywood features with Italian titles, secured from the industry by the OWI overseas film bureau, may be dubbed in Italian in Rome, he disclosed. The British are now engaged in dubbing 10 of their films.

Italian production is limited by the scarcity of raw stock and chemicals, but two films are now in production, Sgt. Levy said. Most studios are in good shape, excepting for Cinecitta, in Rome, which has been destroyed.

"The Great Dictator" and "Random Harvest" are among the most popular American films with Italian audiences, he said.

Sgt. Levy will remain here another two weeks before returning to Italy.

Reagan Honored at Chicago Luncheon

(*Continued from page* 1)

Reagan, who came to Chicago to continue a series of district sales meetings, included: James J. Donohue, Central division manager; R. M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director, and Claude Lee, director of public relations; also in attendance were: Allen Usher, district manager; branch managers, Harold Stevens, Chicago; Harold Wirthwein, Milwaukee, and Ben Blotcky, Minneapolis, and all salesman and head bookers.

Usher was toastmaster at the luncheon and introduced the visiting Paramount executives. Among the exhibitors from Chicago and elsewhere attending were: John Balaban, Jack Kirsch, Ben Marcus, L. F. Gran, Eddie Ruben, Edward Zorn, M. M. Rubens, Charles Trampe, William Washburn, I. Levine, Barry Grampe, and others.

An outline of new Paramount product seen by the home office executives at their recent studio visit was presented at the district meeting. Gillham discussed advertising-publicity plans for coming releases, and explained the operations of his department. Lee stressed the importance of public relations.

Austin C. Keough, Paramount vice-president and general counsel, who was en route to the Hollywood studios from New York, visited the session and spoke briefly.

Reagan, Donohue, Gillham and Lee left for Cleveland to conduct a district meeting there today and tomorrow. They were joined in Cleveland this morning by William Erbb, Eastern division manager, and Hugh Owen, New York and Southern division manager.

7½% BD Dividend

LONDON, Feb. 14.—British and Dominions Film Corp. has declared a 7½ per cent dividend, its first since 1933.

Connors on 3-Month Anniversary Tour

(*Continued from page* 1)

Eastern sales manager A. W. Smith, Jr., Connors will begin the Southern-exchange phase of his tour with a meeting at Charlotte, followed by Atlanta, Feb. 20-21; Memphis, Feb. 23; Oklahoma City, Feb. 24; Dallas, Feb. 25-26, and New Orleans, Feb. 27-28.

Smith, Schlaifer and W. C. Gehring, Western sales manager, have been instructed to devote practically all of their time in the next three months in the field with their respective forces. Advance work on the 30th anniversary is being done by Herman Wobber, Coast division manager and drive leader for the celebration, whose itinerary was reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 6.

'Bernadette' Regular Price Run in April

"The Song of Bernadette" will be released at regular admissions in April, according to W. J. Kupper, 20th Century-Fox general sales manager, who has wired the field staffs to make every effort to have existing advanced-admission contracts played off this month.

More than one-sixth of the total U. S. possibilities were sold on an advanced-admission policy basis, a new record for the company, Kupper said. Of 2,600 such contracts, all but 28 have been fulfilled.

RKO Party for 'Sweet'

RKO will hold a reception tomorrow at the Hotel Plaza here, for Claire Trevor and Dick Powell, co-stars of "Murder, My Sweet."

Cleopatra Had The "Come On"

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DETROIT • LOS ANGELES • NEW YORK • PHILADELPHIA • SEATTLE

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VOL. 57. NO. 33 NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1945 TEN CENTS

10 Films Are Over Average In 16 Cities

'National Velvet' Grosses $36,200 in Five Spots

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

"National Velvet" in outstanding initial weeks in three theatres in Los Angeles and one each in Philadelphia and Indianapolis, leads in MOTION PICTURE DAILY's box office reports from 16 key cities, excluding New York City, for the week ended Feb. 15. The period saw milder weather in most sections of the country and included Lincoln's Birthday, a holiday in most states. Ten films were above average in the cities reporting, based upon receipts from three or more theatres. Besides "National Velvet," they were, according to their ranking: "Here Come the Waves," "Meet Me in St. Louis," the leader

(*Continued on page* 3)

Goldwyn Will Go to England for FEA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Samuel Goldwyn has been appointed to undertake a special mission for the Foreign Economic Administration in England, it was annouced here today by FEA administrator Leo T. Crowley.

The mission was surrounded by considerable secrecy at FEA, where officials, asked for further information, said they had no comment, but in other quarters it was suggested Goldwyn's trip might be concerned with European film supplies and the Eastman plant, near Paris, which was taken over by Allied Forces undamaged when the Germans pulled out.

It is understood also that plans are

(*Continued on page* 10)

Reagan Asks Owners To List Complaints

CLEVELAND, Feb. 15.—Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of Paramount distribution, invited local exhibitors to present their trade practice complaints to him, during a luncheon at the Hotel Cleveland, here, today, concluding a two-day regional sales meeting.

No announcement was made at the

(*Continued on page* 10)

Film Workers Here May Have to Take Essential Jobs: WMC

Reiteration that the film industry is considered non-essential, has been made here by the War Manpower Commission, in pointing out that industry workers in New York City are far more likely to be told to switch to essential jobs, than workers in smaller cities or towns in the area.

WMC spokesmen declared the crux of the matter lies in the hands and the discretion of local draft boards. Since film industry replacements in New York are considered comparatively easy, film workers here, except technicians and cameramen, are far more subject to reclassification

(*Continued on page* 3)

Priority for Red Cross

The industry's 1945 Red Cross 'War Fund Week,' March 15-21, will get a priority in the industry's efforts, it was resolved yesterday, at a meeting of industry drive leaders at the University Club, here, presided over by national chairman N. Peter Rathvon.

Called to complete organizational plans for regional meetings which

(*Continued on page* 10)

Freeman Reelection By AMPP Is Seen

Hollywood, Feb. 15.—Reelection of Y. Frank Freeman, Paramount vice-president in charge of production, as president of the Association of Motion Picture Producers, is expected to take place here Monday when the association holds its annual meeting.

Although at the last annual meeting Freeman declined reelection after serving several terms, no successor was named and he presided by unanimous request of the board of directors.

Justice Dep't Favors Revoking Patents Used for Monopoly

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Legislation providing for the revocation of patents found to be used for monopolistic purposes, now being pushed in Congress, has been given the support of the Department of Justice as a desirable cog in machinery for the prevention of monopoly in the postwar.

The department's approval of a measure introduced by Rep. Jerry Voorhis, California, was conveyed to a House judiciary sub-committee which is holding hearings on it, by Assistant Attorney General Wendell

(*Continued on page* 10)

Capital Gains Setups to Come Under US Scrutiny

Less Likelihood of Argentine Embargo

Buenos Aires, Feb. 15.—Observers here now believe no measures will be taken against the importation of American films despite the Argentine government's threat to require an undetermined amount of U. S. raw stock accompanying each print entering the country, as reported in *Motion Picture Daily* on Feb. 2. American distributors have explained to Rear Admiral Alberto Tesaire, home secretary, that deliverance of raw film is out of their control, depending exclusively on the War Production Board.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 15.—Many capital gains corporate setups established for the suspected purpose of reducing earning positions of parent companies to spread high-bracket taxes, are about to fall under a 'rigorous scrutiny' of Treasury tax officials, in a general checkup in this and other industries, shortly to be intensified by the Government.

Harry C. Westover, Collector of Internal Revenue of the Southern California area, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that the Treasury is becoming increasingly concerned over the many corporations organized and thereafter disbanded in all businesses and intends to investigate. No specific barrage is aimed at the film industry, it was said, but it is clearly embraced in the pending probing of new capital gains setups.

85% of Taxes On Admissions From Theatres

$205,289,025 Collected By U. S. in Fiscal Year

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. — Approximately 85 per cent of all admission taxes collected by the Government are paid in at the box offices of the nation's theatres, it was disclosed here today by Commissioner of Internal Revenue Joseph D. Nunan.

Total collections during the Government's fiscal year, which ended June 30 last, were reported by Nunan as $205,289,025, of which $177,993,776 represented box office admissions. Other collections included in the total were $381,647 from ticket brokers' sales for amounts in excess of box office prices; $50,174 from leases of boxes and seats; $137,096 from ad-

(*Continued on page* 10)

Williams Counsel For SCTOA Mar. 1

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 15.—Paul Williams, former assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, who is resigning from the Department of Justice to succeed the late Albert J. Law as general counsel of the Southern California Theatre Owners Association, will arrive here March 1 to take over his new post. The SCTOA board of

(*Continued on page* 10)

Threaten Weekend Decorators' Strike

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15.—The Screen Set Decorators Union today wired War Labor Board arbitrator Thomas Tongue uring him to wire an outline of his decision in the hearings conducted last week in the jurisdictional dispute between the union and IATSE.

A spokesman for the Decorators

(*Continued on page* 10)

Reviewed Today

Reviews of "Frisco Sal," "Having Wonderful Crime" and "The Body Snatcher" appear on page 6.

Personal Mention

NATE J. BLUMBERG, Universal president, will be in New York from Hollywood about mid-March.

•

DON ALEXANDER, president of Alexander Film, and chairman of the board of General Screen Advertising, has returned to his home office in Colorado Springs, after a few weeks in New York.

•

T/SGT. SEYMOUR ZEITLER, former S.O.S. Cinema Supply Corp. employee, has been awarded the Silver Star, DFC, Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Purple Heart.

•

EDWARD G. FARROW, assistant general manager of Eastman Kodak Co., has been appointed chairman of the Rochester Civic Music Association's annual fund drive.

•

TOM CONNORS, vice-president in charge of sales of 20th Century-Fox, will return to New York today from a sales trip to New Haven, Boston and Albany.

•

HERBERT J. YATES, Republic's chairman of the board and WILLIAM SAAL, producer and studio assistant to YATES, left the Coast for New York yesterday.

•

PVT. RAYMOND FISHER, former assistant manager of the Regal, Hartford, is at England Hospital, Atlantic City, after being wounded in action in Luxembourg.

•

NORMAN H. MORAY, Warner short subject sales manager, will leave New York for the Coast today for conferences with JACK L. WARNER.

•

CPL. HAROLD HELLER, formerly of the RKO Dyker, Brooklyn, and MRS. HELLER are the parents of a girl, born in South Bend, Ind.

•

SAMUEL J. BRISKIN, Columbia studio chief, will leave Hollywood for New York on the Superchief today.

•

PAUL THOMAS, Altec treasurer, has returned to New York from a tour of Mid-West offices.

•

STANLEY HAND, Altec staff representative, has returned to New York from Florida.

•

MARTIN QUIGLEY will leave Hollywood for New York today.

•

HAROLD YOUNG, director, is in New York from the Coast.

•

JAMES MULVEY, Eastern representative for SAMUEL GOLDWYN, will leave Hollywood for New York today on the Superchief.

Monogram Dividend

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15. — Monogram today declared a 13¾ cent dividend on its 5½ per cent cumulative convertible preferred stock, payable March 15 to stockholders of record March 1.

Up to Million from 'Wuthering Heights'

Based on the business done up to now by "Wuthering Heights," the Samuel Goldwyn film which Film Classics is reissuing, L. H. Goldhammer, Film Classics vice-president and general sales manager, yesterday told a franchise holders' committee meeting here that the film will gross between $750,000 and $1,000,000 during its reissue playing. Yesterday's meeting concluded a two day conference between Classics' executives and franchise holders.

Goldhammer told the committee that "Arrowsmith," which will be released in April, will be given a national campaign, while other Goldwyn films which Film Classics is reissuing, "The Hurricane," "Stella Dallas" and "The Westerner," will first be made available only to "A" theatres on a prerelease basis.

As a result of the meetings, "better understanding between Film Classics and the franchise holders has been achieved," Goldhammer said. "Any picture that we take on now will have to be a top "A" reissue," he said.

Film Classics has also acquired "The Stars Look Down," from M-G-M, and a new film, independently produced, "I Was a Criminal."

Franchisers on the executive committee who attended the conference include: Albert Dezel, Detroit, chairman; Sam Wheeler, Washington; Francis White, Charlotte; Bert Stearn, Pittsburgh; Jack Engel, Philadelphia, and Arthur Lockwood and Al Swerlov, Boston.

Majority of Zanuck's Stock to Trust Fund

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15.—Sale of 42,000 shares of Darryl F. Zanuck's 20th Century-Fox common stock on Jan. 23, as reported currently by the New York Stock Exchange, leaving the 20th-Fox vice-president and director with only 129½ common shares held directly in his name, carries no significance insofar as his association with the company is concerned, Zanuck stated here today, explaining that he maintains an irrevocable trust fund in the name of his children, to whom the large block mentioned in the report now belongs under trust codicils.

Declare 3 20th-Fox Stock Dividends

Quarterly cash dividends of $1.12½ a share on prior preferred stock, payable March 15; 37½ cents per share on convertible preferred stock payable March 30, and 50 cents per share on common stock, also payable March 30, all three to stockholders of record on Feb. 28, were declared by the board of directors of 20th Century-Fox here yesterday.

50-Cent Para. Dividend

Paramount yesterday declared a regular quarterly dividend of 50 cents a share on common stock, payable March 30, to stockholders of record on March 9.

Say Police Go Too Far in 'Brownout'

"Numerous exhibitor complaints" that New York City police are "going too far" in their enforcement of the "brownout" of theatre marquee lighting here were discussed yesterday at a meeting of the Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York, at the Hotel Astor. An ITOA spokesman, although unwilling to disclose the specific nature of the complaints, said the police were not following the War Production Board order on outdoor illumination, which went into effect Feb. 1, and that efforts are now being made to adjust the matter.

The order provides that marquee lighting shall be restricted to one 60-watt bulb per theatre but that the WPB will consider appeals based on unusual hardship or danger to public health and safety. Enforcement remains in the hands of the Federal agency, with the local police instructed to report violations and with discontinuance of all electricity provided as a penalty.

Also at yesterday's meeting, the ITOA passed a resolution unanimously endorsing the Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination bill now before the State legislature and appointed Leo Brecher to head a committee which will visit Albany to urge speedy enactment of the measure, which would forbid employers to refuse to hire persons for reasons of race, color or creed.

Harry Brandt, president, presided.

Warners Set Monthly Series of War Films

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15. — "Overseas Roundup," a new series of one-reelers to be issued monthly by Warner Bros. from film footage supplied by the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, to bring to the public a pictorial report of how service men overseas live, work and play, is announced by Jack L. Warner, executive producer.

The new series is a result of discussions between Warners and representatives of the military services. Subject to be featured in first issues include "Tarawa as It Is Today"; a G.I. rodeo staged in Burma for Canadian troops; how G.I.'s improvised garbage cans to build automatic washing machines; as well as entertainment and humor staged by and for G.I.'s at the fronts.

Resume SOPEG Pact Mediation Meetings

Another mediation session in the wage, job classification and contract dispute between Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild and representatives of Loew's, 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, Columbia and RKO, will be held here this morning before Commissioner James W. Fitzpatrick of the U. S. Conciliation Service. Over 2,000 'white collar' workers in home offices of the five companies are involved.

SOPEG and Paramount have concluded arbitration hearings on a wage and job classification dispute with the arbitration panel expected to render a decision shortly.

NEW YORK THEATRES

SECOND WEEK
INSIDE THE RACKETS!
Mobland's Gats Blaze Again!
1st N. Y. Showing
"THE CHICAGO KID"
A Republic Picture
with
DONALD BARRY
OTTO KRUGER
TOM POWERS
REPUBLIC THEATRE
B'way, Bet. 51st & 52nd Streets

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Showplace of the Nation • Rockefeller Center
"A SONG TO REMEMBER"
PAUL MUNI • MERLE OBERON
Introducing CORNEL WILDE
A Columbia Picture in TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
M-G-M's
'NATIONAL VELVET'
Mickey ROONEY · Elizabeth TAYLOR
IN PERSON
CLIFF NAZARRO
MOLLY PICON
MARIO & FLORIA

Paramount presents
Ray Milland
IN
"MINISTRY of FEAR"
in Person
Johnny Long
and his Orchestra
LOUIS JORDAN
and his
FAMOUS TYMPANY FIVE
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett
Raymond Massey
"Woman in the Window"
AN INTERNATIONAL PICTURE
—A RKO RELEASE

SAMUEL GOLDWYN Presents
BOB HOPE
'THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE'
in Technicolor
Continuous Doors open 9:30 A. M.
ASTOR
Broadway & 45th Street
Popular Prices
Midnight Show

WALT DISNEY'S
'The THREE CABALLEROS'
in TECHNICOLOR
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
NOW - - - Brandt's GLOBE

LAIRD CREGAR
LINDA DARNELL
GEORGE SANDERS
HANGOVER SQUARE
A 20th CENTURY-FOX PICTURE
On Stage!
MILTON BERLE
AND GALA LAUGH REVUE!
ROXY 7th AVE. & 50th ST.

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Essential Jobs for Film Workers Here

(Continued from page 1)

than those working in smaller cities. It was pointed out that in small cities an entire theatre might be affected by the war-job drafting of a projectionist or other needed worker, possibly imperiling war workers' entertainment, and so draft boards will go slow in reclassifications for war jobs, it was said.

No ceiling has been placed on the industry here as to the number or percentage of men to be taken. The Regional War Manpower Commission recently ordered non-essential industries, including all theatres in this area, to reduce their staffs by five per cent, for war work; and another five percent by March 15. The ruling affects employers with 10 or more employees and involves males only.

The WMC here points out that theatre and other workers presently in 4F, and men who served in the Army and were discharged because of overage, and who took essential jobs and left them, will be in the same category as a 2A worker. Only those who served in the Army or Navy more than three months and were medically discharged are likely not to be touched.

Industry Committee To Aid Boy Scouts

An industry committee will aid the Boy Scouts of America in commemorating the 35th anniversary of the organization, and help raise $750,000 to carry on their war work.

Amusement co-chairmen include: Leonard Goldenson and Arthur Israel, Jr., Paramount; Silas Seadler and Harold Cleary, Loew's; Stewart McDonald, Warners; A. W. Dawson, RKO; Harry Buckley, United Artists; L. J. Barbono, Columbia; Walter Titus, Republic; Fredric March, actors and actresses.

Others are: Deems Taylor, music publishers and composers; Ralph Edwards, radio artists; Emil Friedlander and George Feinberg, theatre equipment; Nat Lefkowitz and Lee Kellman, artists' representatives; Charles Alicoate, publications; Sammy Kaye bandleaders; Allan Friedman, laboratories; Marcus Heiman and James Reilly, League of New York Theatres.

Freston, Philbrick, Wright to Hearing

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15.—Arthur Freston, Howard Philbrick and Alfred Wright will entrain Sunday for Washington to represent the major producers at the National Labor Relations Board hearing next Thursday on the producers' appeal for reconsideration of the NLRB definition of an extra player in its certification of the Screen Players Union as the bargaining agency for extras.

The Screen Actors Guild claims that bit, stunt and singing performers are not extras and should continue under SAG jurisdiction.

Two Russian Films Here

"Marriage" and "Jubilee," two Soviet films based on comedies by Anton Chekov, and produced at Mosfilm Studios, Moscow, have arrived here and are being prepared for release in the near future by Artkino Pictures.

10 Films Score Above Average in 16 Cities

(Continued from page 1)

in two previous weeks; "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier," "The Princess and the Pirate," "Tonight and Every Night," "A Song to Remember," "Suspect," "Belle of the Yukon," and "The Keys of the Kingdom."

Cities reporting were Milwaukee, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Denver, St. Louis, Boston, Indianapolis, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Chicago, Buffalo, Toronto, San Francisco and Omaha.

"National Velvet" was a heavy $36,200 better than house averages with a standout $20,000 above being recorded in a three-theatre day and date run in Los Angeles; an excellent $12,000 above being rolled up in Philadelphia, and was the leader in Indianapolis.

"Here Come the Waves" grossed a big $53,000 above in reports from eight theatres in Kansas City, Los Angeles, Denver, St. Louis, Boston and Cincinnati. It was also three times better than house averages in a two-theatre run in Los Angeles; was outstanding in Kansas City; was big in a second week in Denver and continued to draw excellently in a fourth week on a moveover in Cincinnati. It was well above average in duals in St. Louis and in two Boston houses.

'St. Louis' Big

"Meet Me in St. Louis" continues to be one of the biggest grossers during the past few weeks. It scored a terrific $25,000 above house averages in reports from six theatres in Milwaukee, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Francisco and Cincinnati, but with the exception of the last named city, where it led in a big opening week with $10,500 above, all dates are extended holdovers. It was a tremendous $12,000 above in a third week in Kansas City; was still well above average in an eighth week in Philadelphia; and was big in second weeks on a dual in Milwaukee and San Francisco.

"Sunday Dinner for a Soldier" brought $4,500 above in a good initial week in Omaha combined with a stage show; a sturdy third week on a moveover as a dual in Pittsburgh and on a second week as a dual in Buffalo.

"The Princess and the Pirate" was a good $3,900 above in reports from Milwaukee on a second week as a dual; on an initial week in Indianapolis; and an outstanding 12th week in Chicago.

"A Song to Remember" brought $4,000 above in five theatres in St. Louis, Boston, Cincinnati, Buffalo and San Francisco, with best business being done in Boston on a third week. It was a Buffalo leader and did well in an initial St. Louis week.

"Suspect" was $2,700 above house average in four theatres in Los Angeles, Baltimore and Chicago, with best business being done on a dual in two Los Angeles theatres. It was good in an initial week in Baltimore.

'Belle' Draws Well

"Belle of the Yukon" drew $3,300 above in reports from three Los Angeles theatres in second weeks as a dual; a strong first week in Kansas City as a dual; and a good initial week in Boston with a stage show.

"The Keys of the Kingdom" was $5,900 above in reports from 12 theatres in 10 of the key cities, many of the dates being extended holdovers. Best business was registered in Boston, with other cities reporting being Kansas City, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Chicago, Buffalo, Omaha and San Francisco.

"To Have and Have Not" in extended holdovers throughout the country brought a gross of $183,500 in reports from 12 theatres in 10 of the cities with good business being done in an initial week in Cincinnati and moderate business being recorded in an initial St. Louis week. "Objective Burma" opened to good business in Chicago. "Tomorrow the World" was a good $6,500 better than average in an initial San Francisco week and continued to draw well in a second week in Cincinnati.

30 WB Exploiteers On 'Hotel Berlin'

Biggest field staff utilized by Warners on a motion picture in recent years will be assigned on "Hotel Berlin," with 30 exploiteers assigned.

In addition to the regular field force under Mort Blumenstock, head of advertising-publicity in the East, several from both home office and studio will handle premieres in key cities. Special press book for campaigns in key situations is now being prepared.

U. S. Schine Briefs Delayed to Monday

BUFFALO, Feb. 15.—Federal Judge John C. Knight was notified by letter today that the Department of Justice hopes to be able to file its overdue briefs in the Schine anti-trust case by Feb. 19. The Government's brief originally was due Feb. 7 but the Department said it had been unable to meet that date because so many members of its motion picture unit were engaged in preparation of its proposals for an interim consent decree in the New York case.

Buchanan Starts As UA Publicity Head

Barry Buchanan started yesterday as director of advertising-publicity for United Artists, here. He had been special coordinator between the Treasury and the film industry. Buchanan has been with the Shuberts and was a director of public relations for the New York World's Fair.

Republic at Ten-Year Peak, Yates Declares

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15.—Republic is in a stronger position than at any time in its 10-year history and will "shoot the works" this year to prove that "we can do anything any other studio can do," H. J. Yates declared here today prior to his departure for the East.

"Pan-Amer." Opening

"Pan-Americana," RKO musical, will have its world premiere at the Capitol Theatre, Trenton, today. The campaign was arranged by John C. Hearn.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Feb. 15

CLARENCE BROWN will direct "The Yearling" for M-G-M, and will also produce for that studio "The Guardian Angel," from an original by Helen Deutsch. . . . William A. Seiter will direct Sonja Henie's next film for International, "Countess of Monte Cristo." . . . Ray Collins, character actor, has been signed by Universal for an important part in "A Night in Paradise."

•

Mona Freeman has been borrowed by 20th Century-Fox from Paramount for a top role in "Junior Miss" . . . Universal has exercised its options on Turhan Bey and Ella Raines . . . RKO has signed Minna Gombell for a role in "Man Alive" . . . M-G-M has given Frances Rafferty a new contract.

•

Patricia Morison has been signed by Universal for the role of Deanna Durbin's rival in "Lady on a Train" . . . Dick Erdman has been assigned an important role in "Danger Signal," at Warners . . . Jerome Courtland, who scored in "Together Again," has been selected to play the male lead opposite Shirley Temple in "Kiss and Tell," which Sol Siegel is producing for Columbia.

•

Helen Mack has been signed for a top role in "Divorce," first of the Monogram films to star Kay Francis, which William Nigh will direct . . . Glenn Tryon, comedy star of the silent days, will face the cameras for the first time in 12 years to portray the title role in RKO's "George White's Scandals of 1945" . . . Claudia Drake has been signed by PRC for a featured singing role in "Undercover Girl."

Boston Would Raise Ticket Broker Fees

BOSTON, Feb. 15.—A bill has been introduced in the Massachusetts Senate to increase the annual license fee for theatre ticket agencies from $100 a year to $10,000. Also, the bill states that "The commissioner shall not issue a license unless the applicant posts a bond of $10,000 with surety satisfactory to the commissioner conditioned that the tickets are at the exact location and have the exact face value stated to the purchaser at the time of sale."

Ernst Made SIMPP Eastern Counsel

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15.—The Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers has engaged Morris Ernst as Eastern counsel. He met the members of the society at a meeting here today and will entrain for New York tomorrow.

Furst N. Y. Mono. Mgr.

Monogram has appointed Nate Furst, formerly special representative, to manage the New York exchange. Jack Safer, former salesman, has been made acting manager of the Washington exchange.

Dick POWELL • Claire

Murder,

OTTO KRUGER • MIKE MAZURKI • MIL

Produced by Adrian Scott • Directe

REVOR • Anne SHIRLEY

My Sweet

(Tradeshown and reviewed as "Farewell My Lovely")

MANDER • DOUGLAS WALTON • DON DOUGLAS

dward Dmytryk Screen Play by John Paxton

RKO RADIO PICTURES

Iowa Allied Fights House Booth Bill

ELDORA, Ia., Feb. 15.—Leo F. Wolcott, president of Allied Independent Theatre Owners of Iowa-Nebraska, has issued a protest for members of his organization, on a pending theatre construction bill in the State House of Representatives, and asks that every theatre in the State immediately oppose the measure requiring considerable changes in projection booth construction.

The bill was introduced by organized labor and is being pushed by the projectionists union, according to Wolcott, who says it would force the closing of more than half of all theatres in Iowa, because it is "utterly impossible to get the materials or workmen to make the changes the bill makes mandatory."

The bill follows plans outlined for new theatres in the post-war, when materials will be available, but demands that all present theatres improve their facilities immediately to the same decree as a new house in order to secure a license. It covers booth size, ventilation, electrical equipment and wiring and prohibits anyone under 18 from operating projection machines. Another complaint is that it exempts traveling exhibitors, churches, schools, clubs, and halls.

Wolcott also points out that theatres in Iowa and Nebraska are being taxed 22 per cent, and warns that "every effort must be made to prevent further legislation against theatres from being introduced or, if introduced, from being passed." He mentions the possibility of a new law proposing to license distributors at the rate of $1,000 yearly and tax them $1 per reel for all film.

Ga. Is Seen Headed For Sunday Shows

ATLANTA, Feb. 15.—The State Senate has voted, 35 to 8, to make Sunday shows legal in Georgia provided a majority of voters in any city or county vote for them in referendum elections. Chief argument advanced for the measure was that it gave the people home rule.

Senator Homer L. Causey, of Alma, sponsored the Sunday motion picture bill. He pointed out that the measure provides for Sunday films only between the hours of two p.m. and 11:30 p.m., and would not interfere with church attendance. Ten per cent of the registered voters can petition for a referendum.

Both Senators Causey and Spence Grayson said Sunday films are more wholesome than roadhouses and dance halls.

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Reviews

"Frisco Sal"

(*Universal*)

SAN FRANCISCO'S lusty Barbary Coast in the 90's provides the background for this melodrama film centering around a New England choir girl's determined search for information concerning the whereabouts of her long-lost brother. Produced and directed by George Waggner, it features Susanna Foster, Turhan Bey and Alan Curtis. With a sprinkling of music and cabaret entertainment coupled with the usual lawlessness, "Frisco Sal" is a satisfactory film. Others in the cast include Andy Devine, Thomas Gomez, Collette Lyons, Samuel S. Hinds, Fuzzy Knight and Billy Green.

Curt Siodmak and Gerald Geraghty are credited with the original screen play, which brings Miss Foster as "Frisco Sal" to the Coast. Having failed to enlist the support of the law in her search for her long-missing brother, she risks her reputation to invade the 'Coast' herself. Although Bey as the proprietor of "The First Dollar" saloon tries to dissuade her, Miss Foster manages to get a job in his cafe. She quickly finds herself in the midst of a feud between Bey and Curtis of a local 'mission' who has been exacting tribute from all cafe proprietors. Bey falls in love with Miss Foster and when Curtis discovers this, the feud is further aggravated. It is only after Curtis tries to pin a murder 'rap' on Bey—the supposed victim being Miss Foster's brother—that Curtis himself is revealed as the long-lost brother. By this time, Bey and Miss Foster have been married and peace is restored to the 'Coast.'

Of the songs sung by Miss Foster, "Beloved," written by Waggner and Edward Ward is about the best. On the lustier side is "I Just Got In," sung by Miss Lyons, as written by Jack Brooks and Norman Berens. A couple of lively and amusing fights serve to speed up the action in some portions of the film.

Running time, 94 minutes. General classification. No release date set.

MILTON LIVINGSTON

"Having Wonderful Crime"

(*RKO Radio*)

Hollywood, Feb. 15

PAT O'BRIEN and George Murphy draw a change of pace in this offering—the former wearing no uniform and the latter doing no dancing—and Carole Landis has a go at the flighty-dame type of thing Rosalind Russell used to do, all of which may be good for them and gratifying to their followers, but the material provided them discounts its billing. A murder-comedy derived from the stage success of the same name, the film fails to deliver whatever it was that accounted for the Broadway run of the original, creating only sporadic mirth and no suspense as it unravels. The names lift it above the average of supporting product, but it rates top spot only where the stars are locally favored.

Possibly the script, by Howard J. Green and Stewart Sterling, is primarily responsible for what goes wrong with the enterprise. It presents the three stars as amateur sleuths who find themselves in the center of a murder mystery, as possible suspects, and forced to solve the case to clear themselves. It's worked out for laughs, some of which jell and others which don't, but without arranging for the audience to suspect anybody in particular of the murder. Upshot of this oversight is that the ending seems tacked on and without point. Direction by Eddie Sutherland keeps the players on the run but does not overcome the handicap imposed by the script. Robert Fellows produced. Others in the cast are: Lenore Aubert, George Zucco, Anje Berens, Richard Martin, Charles D. Brown, Wee Willie Davis, Blanche Ring and Josephine Whittel.

Running time, 70 minutes. General classification. Released in block No. 3.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"The Body Snatcher"

(*RKO Radio*)

Hollywood, Feb. 15

ADDICTS of the gruesome will find Val Lewton's production to their taste. Based on Robert Louis Stevenson's well-known story, it has Boris Karloff as a grave-robber in Scotland in 1831. Bela Lugosi contributes a macabre bit, and Henry Daniell, as the surgeon who requires half-a-dozen fresh bodies daily for his anatomy classes, turns in a matchless performance, sensitively shaded and completely convincing. Robert Wise's direction creates an unbroken mood of sombreness and suspense, and the music, by Roy Webb, directed by C. Bakaleinikoff, makes good use of Scotch folk-songs to enhance the picture's eeriness.

Philip MacDonald and Carlos Keith collaborated on the screenplay, in which Russell Wade portrays a somewhat simple-minded young medical student who, upon becoming assistant to a famed surgeon, soon finds himself a party to grave-robbing and, eventually, to murder. Instead of taking to his heels at once, he stays on in the doctor's household in order to try to persuade him to operate on a little girl, daughter of a chance acquaintance. The doctor operates, but apparently without success. Plagued by the memory of his failure, and by the ubiquitous grave-robber whose blackmailing hold he cannot break, the doctor at last resorts to violence. In a dramatic scene he murders the grave-robber. But death cannot free him of fear, and, crazed by his own conscience, the doctor drives his horse and gig over a cliff to his doom.

Altogether, "The Body Snatcher" is far superior to the general run of horror films.

Running time, 78 minutes. Release date, not set. General classification.

THALIA BELL

Ohio Bill to Control Females and Minors

COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 15.—Ohio theatre and exchange operators may find it necessary to revise their schedules affecting female and minor employees, as a result of state legislation introduced into both branches. A measure offered in the House by Rep. Mary Sotak, Cleveland, seeks to modify provisions of the present law by establishing an eight-hour day and 48-hour week, and fixing 18 years as the age limit for employing minors. It would also require securing a permit to work longer than the prescribed hours.

Simultaneously, a bill was introduced in the upper House by Sen. Fred Reiners, Cincinnati, seeking a two-year extension of the existing law enacted at the last session of the General Assembly—despite opposition of organized labor—which fixed a 10-hour day and 50-hour week for women, with 18 years as the minimum age for minors. Employers are required to inform the State Director of Industrial Relations where it is necessary to work longer hours.

Four En Route to MGM Home Office

Four more M-G-M exploitation representatives from the field will visit the home office for a week starting Monday. They are: James M. Ashcraft, Philadelphia; Tom Baldridge, Washington; Al Burks, Charlotte; Ken Prickett, New Orleans.

Leaving for their respective territories in a few days after conferring with home office department heads during the past week are: Field exploiteers E. B. Coleman, Dallas; Irving Waterstreet, St. Louis; Bernie Evens, Kansas City; Ed Gardiner, Oklahoma City; and office managers John Coyne, Cleveland; Walter Bennin, Milwaukee; Gil Becker, Detroit.

Theatres Cooperate, Escape Pa. Curfew

READING, Pa., Feb. 15.—As a result of theatre managers closely cooperating with city police and Berks County probation court agents, a curfew regulation imposed by city and county authorities on those under 18 has not been applied to theatres. In addition, most night picture runs are completed before the police begin rounding up late roamers under 18. The curfew order, which was not accompanied by formal councilmanic legislation or using sirens or bells, is part of the authorities' program for curbing of delinquency.

Para. Buys Radio Time

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15.—Paramount has inaugurated two 15-minute radio programs over local stations. "Paramount Parade" will be heard three times weekly over WHJ on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and "Make Believe Ballroom" will be heard over KFWB six times weekly.

Skouras on Broadcast

New York radio station WEVD will broadcast an hour of the "One World Dinner" to be held at the Hotel Astor here Sunday, at which Spyros P. Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president, Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff, RCA head, and others will speak.

Announcement

On Behalf of the **American Movie Public**

Polled in 1944 By Dr. George Gallup's Radio Research, Inc.

The **Editors of Photoplay,** Present

The Photoplay **Gold Medal Awards**

to the **nation's favorite**

ACTRESS

ACTOR

PICTURE

Greer Garson

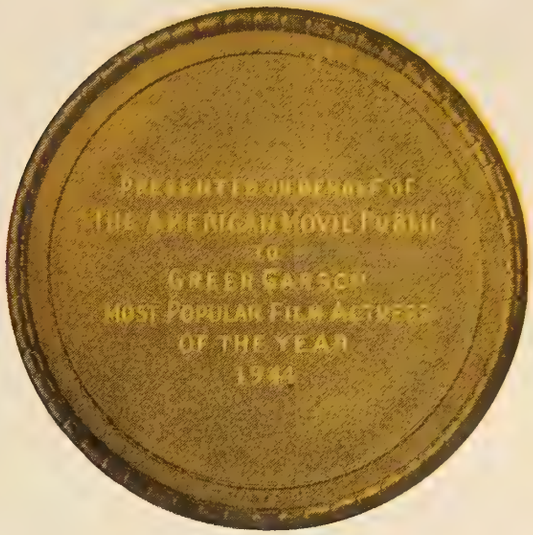
The Nation's Favorite Motion Picture Actress

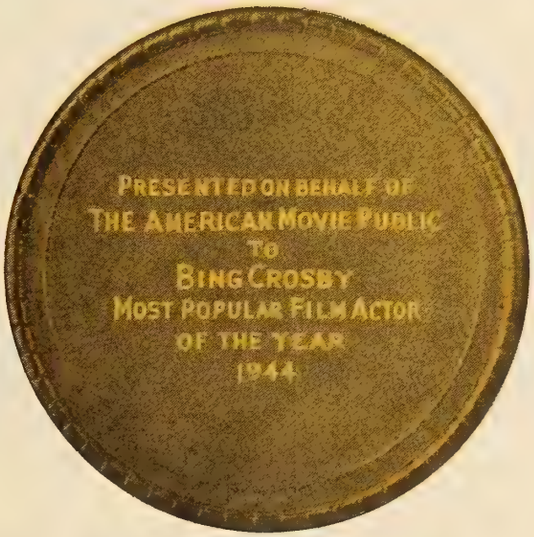
Bing Crosby

The Nation's Favorite Motion Picture Actor

Going My Way

The Nation's Favorite Motion Picture





Photoplay AMERICA'S **FIRST** AMERICA'S **OLDEST** AMERICA'S **BEST**

85% of Taxes On Admissions From Theatres

(Continued from page 1)

missions sold by proprietors in excess of established prices, and $26,726,331 from roof gardens and cabarets.

Well over a third of the total collections came from New York, California and Illinois. Receipts ranged from slightly over $44,000,000 from New York, to less than $250,000 from Wyoming.

Collections throughout the greater part of the fiscal year were at the former rate of one cent on every 10 cents, increasing to the present rate of one cent on five cents on April 1, 1944.

Total receipts for 1943-1944 were $50,838,303 above the $154,450,722 recorded for the preceding year, but because of changes in rates in both years no comparison of returns by individual states would show trends.

Collection by States

Box office collections in the fiscal year, by states, were reported by Nunan as follows: Alabama, $1,435,942; Arizona, $587,964; Arkansas, $1,244,191; California, $18,446,340; Colorado, $1,776,931; Connecticut, $1,876,641; Delaware, $231,410; Florida, $3,225,158; Georgia, $2,820,628; Idaho, $425,391; Illinois, $11,868,052; Indiana, $3,761,219; Iowa, $2,268,985.

Also: Kansas, $930,297; Kentucky, $1,741,196; Louisiana, $2,868,614; Maine, $533,357; Maryland, $3,022,804; Massachusetts, $7,000,472; Michigan, $7,436,046; Minnesota, $3,072,935; Mississippi, $448,717; Missouri, $5,050,615; Montana, $407,383; Nebraska, $1,202,941; Nevada, $214,181; New Hampshire, $502,617; New Jersey, $3,995,034; New Mexico, $205,770; New York, $39,088,173; North Carolina, $2,646,421.

Also: North Dakota, $33,744; Ohio, $7,420,678; Oklahoma, $1,993,646; Oregon, $1,602,210; Pennsylvania, $9,118,457; Rhode Island, $829,415; South Carolina, $1,205,336; South Dakota, $332,989; Tennessee, $2,356,885; Texas, $8,327,466; Utah, $964,235; Vermont, $249,454; Virginia, $2,937,301; Washington, $3,345,865; West Virginia, $1,252,059; Wisconsin, $2,762,757; Wyoming, $175,879; Alaska, $131,735; District of Columbia, $1,120,604; Hawaii, $1,215,722.

Selznick-Saphier Expand

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 15.—A new music department for the industry, under direction of Nat Finston has been set up by the Selznick-Saphier agency.

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Reagan Asks Owners To List Complaints

(Continued from page 1)

luncheon of any new national plan to handle these complaints, but Cleveland exhibitors report that Paramount's district manager Harry Goldstein will make final disposition of local complaints and will make adjustments in this territory.

About 80 were present and also heard Hugh Owen, Paramount New York and Southern division sales manager; Robert M. Gillham, advertising-publicity head, and Claude Lee, who spoke of furthering goodwill by more frequent get-together of distributors and exhibitors.

In addition to exhibitors and Paramount representatives, among those who attended the luncheon were Cleveland newspaper film editors, including Ward Marsh, Omar Ranney and Peter Bellamy.

Goldstein was in charge of yesterday's sales meeting, which was also attended by branch managers, salesmen, head bookers and advertising representatives from Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland and Indianapolis in addition to home office executives J. J. Donohue and W. H. Erbb.

Williams Takes Over For SCTOA Mar. 1

(Continued from page 1)

directors will meet tomorrow to sign a contract for Williams' services.

As reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 5, Williams is expected to work toward adoption of Laws' trade conciliation plan designed to simplify the provisions of arbitration under the industry's consent decree. Law was negotiating to this end with distributor heads when he died of a heart attack in New York Jan. 2.

Williams represented the Government in early anti-trust suit proceedings.

Threaten Weekend Decorators' Strike

(Continued from page 1)

said that, unless a favorable decision is received tomorrow, the members may be instructed to walk out on Saturday or Monday and that constituent organizations in the Conference of Studio Unions would follow.

To Trade Show 'Pleasure'

National trade screenings of International's "It's a Pleasure", will be held Feb. 26-27. The New York and Coast screenings will be held Feb. 26 at the Normandie, here, and the Ambassador Hotel Theatre in Los Angeles, respectively.

'Berlin' Showing Mar. 12

"Hotel Berlin" will be nationally tradeshown by Warner Bros. on March 12. The film will follow "Objective Burma" into the New York Strand, in March.

'Speaking' Shown Feb. 28

National tradeshowing of "Roughly Speaking," originally scheduled by Warners for Feb. 19, has been changed to Feb. 28.

Justice Dep't Favors Revoking Patents

(Continued from page 1)

Berge, chief of the anti-trust division.

Berge told the sub-committee that he is in favor of the patent system, but that a "series of abusive practices and persistent misuse" has arisen in certain fields which have created an "acute and urgent" problem particularly since the outbreak of the war.

The department has been studying patent-supported monopolies for a period of years, and now is engaged in a number of investigations in that field, including a survey of electrical equipment and other companies serving the motion picture industry.

Berge told the sub-committee that major abuses of patents include their use to suppress new processes and new products, to impose arbitrary and unreasonable price levels upon consumers and businessmen, to restrict capacity and production and to eliminate competition and prevent the development of new enterprises.

"The evidence which has been accumulated over the years, in a series of cases brought by the Department of Justice, offers abundant testimony of patent abuses from many industries," he said. "In fact, there is hardly an area of monopoly activity or a branch of production investigated by the anti-trust division which has not disclosed at some point the misuse of patents by powerful monopoly groups."

Goldwyn Will Go to England for FEA

(Continued from page 1)

under consideration to get the French film industry rolling again, probably with a newsreel and some feature production, using some of the raw stock from the Paris plant which the Army will not require.

It was also disclosed recently that the purchase of tons of raw stock to be exported to France for civilian use is being worked out by the FEA without other Government agencies. The Army is reported to have already contracted for $10,000,000 worth of X-ray film to be produced in French plant this year.

$6,287 for 'SYWA'

The Vanguard offices here announced yesterday that David O. Selznick's "Since You Went Away" grossed $6,287 in its opening day, Wednesday, at the Fox Theatre, San Francisco. Previous house record, $6,188, was made by Paramount's "Going My Way."

Cpl. McDonnell Cited

SCRANTON, Feb. 15.—Posthumous awards of the Purple Heart and Presidential Citation for Cpl. Jerome J. McDonnell, formerly with the Comerford Circuit, have been received here by his mother. Cpl. McDonnell, attached to Patton's Army, was killed in action last September in France.

Digest-Size 'Fan' Book

C. D. Publishing Co., here, has announced *Movies in Review*, a new "fan" magazine, said to be the first in digest size. Paul Myers is editor. One feature will be news of English studios.

Priority for Red Cross

(Continued from page 1)

will be held throughout the country starting Feb. 23, the conference was attended by all general sales managers and others.

Basis of the discussion was a 'speaker's manual' which detailed all phases and procedure to be followed at the area meetings, subject to flexibilities which may be found necessary because of local conditions.

It was also announced at the meeting that a new campaign idea will be inaugurated this year whereby a number of Hollywood stars who have been on entertainment tours in the war areas will write letters to every pledged exhibitor in the country detailing what they have seen of the Red Cross in action in the field.

Among those who attended yesterday's luncheon were, besides national committee chairman Rathvon, national executive coordinator L. E. Thompson, campaign director Leon J. Bamberger, publicity directors S. Barret McCormick and Harry Mandel, publicity coordinator Arthur M. Brilant, and committeemen Herman Robbins, Henderson M. Richey, John J. O'Connor, E. M. Schnitzer, and Bernard Kamber.

Also present were: Ned E. Depinet, Robert Mochrie, William J. Scully, Si Fabian, Carl Lesserman, Walter Brooks, John Cassidy, Martin Smith, Abe Montague, Tom Connors, and Arthur Mayer.

Cincinnati Red Cross Meeting on Feb. 24

CINCINNATI, Feb. 15.—More than 125 exhibitors, exchangemen and others are expected to attend a luncheon meeting here to formulate final arrangements for the March 15-21 Red Cross drive. The meeting, to be held at the Variety Club, Feb. 24, was announced by Arthur Frudenfeld, RKO divisional manager, and Allan S. Moritz, Columbia branch manager, exhibitor and distributor chairman, respectively, for the War Activities Committee.

Also scheduled to attend are Si Fabian, WAC theatres division head; Abe Montague, Columbia general sales manager, and P. J. Wood, Columbus, co-state chairman.

Dana and Silver Head Pittsburgh Red Cross

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 15.—P. T. Dana, Universal, and M. A. Silver, Warners, have been named chairmen of the distributors' and exhibitors' committees, respectively, for the Red Cross 'War Fund Week.' A sum of $3,604,000 is being sought for Pittsburgh.

A luncheon has been set for Feb. 25 at the William Penn Hotel, to be attended by N. Peter Rathvon, national chairman of the industry Drive, and William Scully of Universal. Other officers of the Pittsburgh War Activities Committee which will conduct the appeal, are Morris Finkel, Western Pennsylvania chairman; John H. Harris, national board member; Joseph Feldman, co-ordinator; B. W. Steerman, treasurer.

Our Cameras Move On The Philippines

Filipinos help PT boat pick up Jap survivors after the action in Surigao Strait. Official U. S. Navy Photograph.

In the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea—the superb reconnaissance work of our photographers was one of the decisive elements of victory.

SO it has been all through this war. Again and again, our comprehensive use of photography—in mapping terrain, scouting enemy movements, locating targets—has given our forces up-to-the-minute information essential to victory.

The movies have had a lot to do with this. From the industry have come many of our finest photographers. And movie men have done invaluable work turning "green" youngsters into expert combat photographers, supervising the production of thousands of training films for our armed forces, and making news films for the folks at home.

Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y.

J. E. BRULATOUR, INC., *Distributors*
FORT LEE CHICAGO HOLLYWOOD

One of a series of advertisements by KODAK testifying to the achievements of the movies at war

You can get only one other picture timed like 'Casablanca'.

It's HOTEL BERLIN.

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OFFICE OF UNCTUAL ATTRACTIONS

(WARNERS)

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 34 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1945 TEN CENTS

Skouras Sees Film Shift to Vital Themes

Accepts Willkie Award On Behalf of Zanuck

Declaring that the industry has "come of age" since the war, Spyros P. Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president, speaking last night at the first annual "One World" dinner in memory of the late Wendell L. Willkie, at the Hotel Astor, here, predicted that, from now on, the emphasis in films will shift from mere entertainment to an increasing degree of instruction and enlightenment.

"The techniques for this approach are ready for our use," Skouras said. "To apply them effectively, however, we must have the enlightened support of the people. We cannot do a proper job if the industry is to be pulled in all directions by opposing forces from the outside."

Skouras spoke on behalf of both himself and Darryl F. Zanuck, 20th-Fox production vice-president, for

(*Continued on page* 6)

Five Branches at Today's Para. Meet

Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, will convene a sales meeting of New York and Boston districts at the Hotel Pierre, here, today. The meeting will continue through Tuesday.

Delegations from New York, Boston, Buffalo, Albany and New Haven branch offices will meet with home office executives in a discussion of product and sales plans. William H. Erbb, Eastern division manager, will

(*Continued on page* 8)

Labor Dispute Shuts Mexican Industry

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 18.—Mexican production has been completely suspended because producers consider it extremely hazardous to continue working under conditions caused by the latest labor dispute in the industry, provoked by a raid on the headquarters of the Cinematographic

(*Continued on page* 6)

Police Not to Ease Brownout Here

The New York Police Commissioner's office has told *Motion Picture Daily* that, despite exhibitor complaints about the 'brownout,' the Department will not recommend any additional lighting. Investigations of all complaints have been made, but not in any instance, has the Department found any which create undue hardship or endanger public health or safety, it was said.

The ITOA here, has protested publicly against 'stringent' enforcement by the Police of the 'brownout' order.

U. S. Setting Foreign Aid

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—State and Commerce Department officials are working out plans for joint representation abroad of the American motion picture and other industries after the war, it was disclosed tonight by Wayne C. Taylor, Acting Secretary of Commerce.

Out of these plans, Taylor said, will come a unified foreign service geared to the needs of American exporters and businessmen. Commercial and economic staffs abroad are being substantially expanded to insure adequate personnel capable of rendering the services required to protect and encourage American film and other interests in foreign trade.

Senate Group Plans Film Monopoly Quiz

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—An investigation of the motion picture industry is expected to be initiated in the near future by the special Senate Small Business Committee, the first objective of which will be the determination whether independents are being forced out of the business by monopolies, it was learned here today.

The committee is headed by Senator James E. Murray of Montana.

Initial work on the investigation is said already to have started, under the direction of Dewey Anderson, formerly with the Temporary National Economic Committee which investigated the film industry before the war, who is counsel for the committee.

Rank's Visit Here At Least 2 Months

LONDON, Feb. 18.—J. Arthur Rank's American visit will run at least two months, starting with his planned arrival in the United States in mid-May, but it is deemed likely here, that his Washington conversations will extend for four months. It is imperative, however, that Rank be back in England Sept. 1.

Rank will be accompanied on his visit by G. Woodham-Smith and John Davis. They will proceed to Washington for discussions on post-war Anglo-American film reciprocity agreements, a move which has British Governmental approval.

B. & K. Finds Single Bills Gross More Than Duals

By SAM HONIGBERG

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Comparative grosses for the past six months at the Balaban and Katz Garrick and Apollo theatres, Loop houses which have been playing both single and twin-bill programs, indicate that single features are leading at the box office. The comparison will not only result in fewer double bills in those theatres, but may also have their influence in B. and K. neighborhood houses which, of late, have been singling better product.

"Irish Eyes Are Smiling" did some 20 per cent better than "Sweet and Lowdown" paired with "The Big Noise" at the Garrick, and "Something for the Boys," alone, is running ahead of "Hail the Conquering Hero" plus "Dark Mountain" in the same house.

The Apollo has been doing so well with single films that only two programs within the past six months had twin bills. Films set for showings in March and April in those houses will be singled in every case, among them "Guest in the House," "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier" "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and "The Sign of the Cross."

B. and K. last week singled "Arsenic and Old Lace" in the Crystal, Biltmore, and Belpark houses and reported better than average returns on dual program showings.

'Little 3' May Ignore D of J Decree Brief

Other Five Expected to Send Views by Letter

Indications are that the three non-decree companies, Columbia, United Artists and Universal, will make no formal reply to the Government's current proposal for an ad interim amendment to the clearance provisions of the industry consent decree, despite the fact that notice of the proposals was served on the three by the Government.

A legal spokesman for Universal said on Friday that the company would make no response to the Government's proposal on the ground that it is not a party to the decree and, therefore, the court has no jurisdiction over it where purely consent decree matters are concerned.

Legal representatives of Columbia

(*Continued on page* 8)

OCR's Recreation Work Is 90% Films

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Activities of the recreation section of the Office of Civilian Requirements in the field of motion pictures represents 90 per cent of the work which is being done to insure the provision of adequate recreation for war workers, OCR officials disclose.

Not only is the section responsible for the provision of new theatres where required, but it also is active

(*Continued on page* 6)

Photoplay Awards Will Go to 13

Bing Crosby, Greer Garson and the producers (Leo McCarey and B. G. De Sylva) of Paramount's "Going My Way" will receive the *Photoplay Magazine* "Gold Medal Award" for the most popular actor, actress and

(*Continued on page* 8)

Reviewed Today

Reviews of "Betrayal From the East" and "Bring on the Girls" appear on page 9.

Personal Mention

BEN KALMENSON, Warner general sales manager, will return to New York today from the Coast.

•

DON SARDINAS, JR., assistant to C. C. RYAN, Warner distribution purchasing agent, will be inducted into the Army Feb. 27. He is the fifth and last son of DON SARDINAS, SR., of the Warner foreign title department to enter service.

•

LEONARD GOLDENSON, EDWARD L. HYMAN, ROBERT WEITMAN, JOE KINSKY and MAX FELLERMAN of Paramount left the Coast Friday for Phoenix, Arizona, and will arrive in New York tomorrow by plane from Phoenix.

•

TOM CONNORS, 20th Century-Fox vice-president in charge of sales, left over the weekend for Charlotte, Atlanta, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Dallas and New Orleans. He will return to New York March 3.

•

LEONARD PALUMBO, assistant to G. R. KEYSER, foreign advertising and publicity manager of Warners, has been made a village trustee of Tuckahoe, New York, for a two-year term.

•

WILLIAM C. GEHRING, 20th Century-Fox Western sales manager, has returned to New York from Los Angeles.

•

HENRI ELMAN, Chicago PRC franchise holder, has returned to Chicago from the Coast.

•

PHIL WILLIAMS, March of Time advertising director, left yesterday for Atlanta.

•

RALPH CLARK, Warner Canadian manager, will return to Toronto today from New York.

No Salesmen's Union For Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 18.—Proposed unionization of film salesmen in this territory has been killed by the Reel-Fellows, local salesmen's club, which claims 100 per cent membership in the zone, according to a spokesman for the group.

Silver Joins Republic Advertising Staff

Milton Silver has joined the Republic home office advertising department as assistant to director of advertising, Charles Reed Jones.

Silver had been with National Screen Service and Univeral.

Sears Out Until April 2

Gradwell L. Sears, vice-president in charge of United Artists distribution, who entered New York Hospital on Feb. 7 because of a minor heart ailment, will be able to return to his office April 2. Sears' condition is reported as "highly satisfactory."

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

THE trade press was given a briefing in present and post-war foreign film markets and their problems by Carl E. Milliken of the MPPDA at a luncheon at the Harvard Club last week. While the specific topics discussed and information revealed are regarded as confidential in the interests of industry security and the successful prosecution of economic warfare, this observer feels free to report that his net impression of the conference was that the answer to most or all foreign market problems resides in the product sent to those markets.

If it's our product the peoples of the world want most to see the customers are very apt to take care of any intervening obstacles in their own effective way. But if it's the other fellow's product they prefer, then, brother, you've got troubles.

This may not be a new slant on the foreign market and its attendant worries to those on whom such worries descend, but to us it is fascinating for its simplicity and logic. Impressed, as we often are, with great governments lending support to their film producers and distributors at home and interceding actively on their behalf abroad, as does Great Britain, for example, and by the welter of taxes, quotas and special legislation of many other kinds constantly enacted by nations which would handicap the importation of American films while nurturing the development of their own, it is refreshing to think that despite all such machinations by powerful governments the ultimate decision still rests with the people who march to the box offices.

In that way international commerce in motion pictures is reduced to as simple a matter as that involved in a subway patron's decision as to which vending machine will get his penny for chewing gum.

• •

Before we take our leave of the foreign market we'd like to relay this one: A foreign department executive recently returned from London was asked his opinion of a British picture currently being touted by its owner as a new departure in production.

"Well," he replied, "an American executive whom you all know was seated next to me at the premiere. About midway through the picture he turned to me and observed: 'They ought to have English subtitles'."

• •

Paramount's Charlie Reagan graduated from Notre Dame in 1916 and has been an active alumnus since, including honorary membership on the University's football committee. It must have been highly gratifying to him, therefore, to have the Rev. John Cavanaugh, C.S.C., vice-president of Notre Dame, as a speaker at the testimonial luncheon to Reagan last week in Chicago, where he was a Paramount district manager a number of years ago. Said Father Cavanaugh: "Notre Dame is noted not only for its football headlines but also for such outstanding persons as the president of the Southern Pacific Railroad, the inventor of synthetic rubber, and a highly respected member of the President's Cabinet. The honor of attending this testimonial luncheon to Charles Reagan is especially pleasing to me, as it is with great satisfaction that we number him among our alumni."

The Cabinet member referred to is Postmaster General Frank C. Walker, former president of Comerford Circuit.

• •

Every M-G-M field exploitation man and branch office manager either has been or will be given an opportunity to visit the home office for one week. During their visits the men are initiated into the mysteries of every possible phase of operations that affects their work in the field or interests them as members of the Loew organization. They are given the opportunity to meet all department heads, air their problems and have their questions answered. They are briefed in Federal wartime regulations so that they know, for example, why they are permitted to pay only a specific amount for a specific job, regardless of the scarcity of manpower in their localities, or why their exchange can be allowed only so many release prints, or the answer to essensentially anything that may be bothering them. They meet trade press staff members and exchange views with them.

The value of this procedure would seem to be apparent. It is no surprise to learn that other home offices plan to follow suit.

Decorators' Strike Decision Tomorrow

Hollywood, Feb. 18. — The Set Decorators Union has postponed its possible strike action, originally planned for the weekend, until Tuesday. Unless a favorable decision from War Labor Board arbitrator Thomas Tongue in the jurisdictional dispute with IATSE is received by then, an SDU spokesman said, the members will walk out.

Selznick Seeks to Enjoin Leigh Role

LONDON, Feb. 18.—David O. Selznick is seeking, through counsel, an injunction in British High Court restraining Vivian Leigh from appearing in the stage play, "Skin of Your Teeth," alleging that her reputation will be damaged by playing in a role described as being unsuitable to her and thereby, Selznick's worldwide property in Miss Leigh's 'personal capabilities.'

Selznick has Miss Leigh under a seven-year contract, founded on her work in "Gone with the Wind." Miss Leigh has been here for the past two years, mainly working on Gabriel Pascal's "Caesar." Her husband, Lawrence Olivier, who is financing the play, opposed her appearance in Selznick films and is now insisting that she appear in the stage play.

Army Assigns Nizer To Talk on Germany

Louis Nizer, film attorney and author of "What To Do with Germany," will leave New York today on a bomber to visit Army bases and address soldiers and officers on the subject of his book, on an assignment from the Orientation Division of the Army.

Columbia Signs Fier To Seven-Year Pact

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 18.—Jack Fier has been signed by Columbia to a new seven-year contract, after serving for seven years as a production executive at the studio.

Fier will continue as production manager of all pictures made at Sunset Studio, and will also continue supervision over the eight Westerns and four Western musicals made annually by Colbert Clark.

Lunch for Exploiteers

William R. Ferguson, M-G-M director of exploitation, held a luncheon for 15 members of his exploitation staff and the trade press at the Astor Hotel, Friday.

Marjorie Rambeau Hurt

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 18.—Marjorie Rambeau, actress, suffered a possible skull fracture, broken leg and other injuries in an automobile accident here Friday.

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RED CROSS DRIVE—MARCH 15-21

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Introducing ALL THESE ACE ENTERTAINERS OF NIGHT-CLUB, STAGE AND RADIO:

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World-famed wizards of the dance!

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Top-flight Cuban night-club star!

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Sensational in their "Snake Dance"!

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Amazing voice—hits C above high C!

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Porto Rican queen of sultry song!

CHUY CASTILLON and PADILLA SISTERS
Mexico's marvelous singing trio!

NESTOR AMARAL and BRAZILIAN SAMBA BAND
See why his records are best sellers!

CHUY REYES and his ORCHESTRA
Keyboard king of the Rhumba!

Pa Americ

with

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EVE ARDEN · ERNEST TRUEX · MA

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Produced and Directed by JOHN H. A

WATCH FOR THE PRESS BOOK! USE IT!
RED CROSS DRIVE—MARCH 15-21

MICAL SPEEDSHOW!...
Radiant with names!...
a-
ana
OBERT BENCHLEY
AMER · ISABELITA
7 SIZZLING TUNES BY
ARY BARROSO
MARGARITA LECUONA
GABRIEL RUIZ
PEPE GUIZAR
CARLOS CASTELLANOS
ANTONIO FERNANDEZ
BOBBY COLLA
een Play by
rence Kimble

Navy to Show Fifty Top Film Revivals

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The Navy this year will run 'return engagements' for 50 top pictures of former years, in this way meeting desires of enlisted personnel evidenced in a recent survey conducted by Capt. T. J. O'Brien, welfare director, and Capt. Gene Markey, director of Navy Photographic Services.

The survey was made to determine what the men at sea or at foreign stations would like, and as a result of the study the Navy, in cooperation with the industry, has arranged for new prints of a number of pictures, including: "Lives of a Bengal Lancer," "Mutiny on the Bounty," "Holiday Inn," "Ruggles of Red Gap," "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town," "Roberta," "San Francisco," "The Awful Truth," "Old Chicago," "Union Pacific," "Barbary Coast," "You Can't Take It With You," "Alexander's Rag Time Band," "Road to Singapore," "One Night," "Top Hat," "Sally, Irene and Mary," "Boom Town," "Hundred Men and a Girl," "Stage Coach," "Gunga Din," "Waikiki Wedding," "Destry Rides Again" and "Hurricane."

Against False Heroics

The inquiry showed that while the men voted against war films with false heroics they gave a high rating to films with authentic war themes such as "Wing and a Prayer" and "Memphis Belle."

A call for the most liked stars brought top billing to Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Abbott and Costello, Spencer Tracy and Bette Davis.

The former hits will be in addition to the Navy's regular film menu, which is supplied through 25 prints of 300 films for which the Department has contracted and the 106 prints of three films in 16mm. given monthly by the industry through the War Activities Committee to supply what Department officials rate as the No. 1 recreation and morale builder of the service.

Labor Dispute Shuts Mexican Industry

(Continued from page 1)

and Allied Workers Union, allegedly by Enrique Solis, ex-union secretary general.

Producers have appealed to President Manuel Avila Camacho to end the row. Solis has been arrested but released on bail. Jorge Negrete, secretary-general of the players' section of the union, has publicly called for an accounting of the union's funds. Solis was ousted last Summer because of alleged manoeuvering to split the union. Solis asserted that his raid on the union's headquarters, during which the union's books were seized and loaded on trucks, is justified because numerous unionists still consider him their head.

The complete production suspension was preceded by some studio and laboratory workers refusing to work, except to handle the most urgent matters, because union rules demand that they check in and out daily, which can only be done through the union's books, which the police are holding until the dispute is settled.

Skouras Predicts Shift of Film Emphasis in Postwar

(Continued from page 1)

whom he accepted a "One World" award, given in recognition of Zanuck's production of "Wilson." Zanuck was unable to attend because he is editing "A Bell for Adano" in Hollywood. Other awards went to Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff, RCA pres-

300,000 chairs to meet urgent needs.

"The press, radio and the motion picture are mighty forces, and the three men who are being honored tonight have demonstrated how effectively these forces can be used for the greatest good," Skouras said. "Mr. Zanuck has devoted many years to the production of films dealing with the betterment of humanity. Yet, great as the production of 'Wilson' is, I think all good pictures have contributed in considerable measure to international understanding."

Developing this theme as a factor toward reaching the "One World" goal of Willkie, who was chairman of the 20th-Fox board of directors, Skouras called for the "free flow of motion pictures into and out of our country." Thus, he added, "We will get to know each other and soon learn that men, women and children are the same the world over. The screens of the world are dissolving ignorance and prejudice, widening horizons of thought, opening the eyes of millions to better ways of living."

General Sarnoff, accepting his award, likewise dwelt upon better understanding between nations and sees in television, improved by wartime research, an additional means of achieving it. He urged that a study be made of this medium as an aid in helping preserve peace. Referring also to radio, he said, "America must have more powerful and effective international broadcast programs. We must have sufficient world-wide circuits to carry news and pictures freely and directly to and from all corners of the earth," he added.

Rev. Robert I. Grannon, S. J., president of Fordham University, presided at the dinner, at which other speakers and honored guests included: Mrs. Hjordis Swenson, chairman of the One World Committee; Leonard Brockington, K.C., former chairman of the board of governors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.; Dr. Carlos Davila, former president of Chile; Gov. Raymond E. Baldwin of Connecticut; Russell Davenport, author; Charles E. Hughes, Jr., and Lloyd Stratton, secretary of the Associated Press. Armand Tokatyan sang the new song "One World."

OCR's Recreation Work Is 90% Films

(Continued from page 1)

in the field of theatre booth and house equipment, currently working on proposals to provide from 200,000 to 300,000 chairs to meet urgent needs.

Currently, because of the manpower and materials situation, theatre construction is practically at a standstill in the war-production areas where it is most needed, it was said, but a considerable number of houses were completed before new war pressures temporarily halted the effort.

The Department of Justice, it was disclosed, still is interested in wartime theatre construction and is kept informed of all applications filed with the OCR, so that it may make a determination whether any, and which, of the defendants in various anti-trust suits were attempting to increase their holdings.

Because of the fact that theatres have been on short rations of equipment for the past three years, the OCR is being called upon for assistance in securing many types of replacement goods, including air-conditioning equipment, carpets and other supplies for the front-of-the-house. A number of such programs are being developed, to be put into effect when supply and labor conditions ease off.

Less publicized than its construction program, other work of the section, headed by Maurice M. Green, who was engaged in exhibition for 20 years before joining the War Production Board, includes investigations of complaints and inequities received by other Government agencies, which relate to film exhibition and theatre problems. Everything involving motion picture theatres is handled personally by Green and Claude C. Ezel, theatre consultant.

WLB Rules Strike At Winnipeg Illegal

TORONTO, Feb. 18.—On the third day of the strike of IATSE projectionists which has closed 18 theatres in Winnipeg, Judge S. E. Richards, chairman of the Regional War Labor Board of Manitoba, ruled Friday that the strike is illegal. A mass meeting of Winnipeg projectionists will be held by the union to decide upon a course of action.

Several theatres operated by J. Miles, an associate of Famous Players-Canadian, employ members of One Big Union, and IATSE officials have been attempting to organize these men. When negotiations broke down, they called out all IATSE projectionists employed by FP-C.

Services for Price

Funeral services for Ben Price, 54, film salesman, were held here Friday in Park West Memorial Chapel. Price had died of a heart attack last Tuesday in Miami. With Monogram at the time of his death, Price had been with the New York branch of Universal for many years. He is survived by his widow, and a daughter, Helen, who is in the 20th-Fox exchange booking department here.

Mexican Soundman Dies

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 18.—Rogelie Mingo, 47, pioneer Mexican film sound expert, died at his home here after a brief illness.

H. S. Morris Promoted

H. S. Morris has been named Eastern representative of the Altec Lansing Corp., in addition to his present duties with Altec Service Corp.

Morris was an engineer with Electrical Research Products until 1937.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Feb. 18

PRODUCER - DIRECTOR ANDREW STONE has completed the reorganization of his producing company with the signing of C. Simpson as comptroller. . . . Joseph Schildkraut, currently in Republic's "Amazing Mr. M," has been given a new contract by the studio under the terms of which he will make three, rather than two, pictures a year.

•

S. Sylvan Simon has been named to direct "Abbott and Costello in Hollywood," for M-G-M. . . . Paramount has purchased a short story by Anthony Gibbs, titled "A Tale of Two Cafes." . . . Ernest Truex has been signed by Universal for a role in "Men in Her Diary." . . . Acquanetta has returned to Hollywood from Mexico City preparatory to making "Temptation" for Monogram.

•

Katharine Hepburn is to be starred in "The Damask Cheek," M-G-M's forthcoming production of John Van Druten's play. Lawrence Weingarten will produce and Harold S. Bucquet will direct . . . Samuel Goldwyn plans to cast Danny Kaye as Hans Christian Andersen in a version of the life of the famous Danish story-teller . . . Tom McKnight will produce "Musical Madness" as his first assignment for Universal.

HVC Cites 37,979 Player Appearances

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 18.—The Hollywood Victory Committee's third annual report reveals that 3,564 Hollywood personalities have made 37,979 free appearances in 5,680 service events since the inception of HVC, an average of 35 per day. During the past year the average was 50 a day.

On the 'hospital circuit,' 90 personalities have made 1,545 appearances on 68 hospital tours in recent months.

Postpone AMPP Meeting

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 18. — Annual meeting of the Association of Motion Picture Producers, originally scheduled for tomorrow, has been postponed for one or two weeks, owing to the inability of some members to attend. At the forthcoming meeting it is expected that Y. Frank Freeman, Paramount vice-president in charge of production, will be re-elected president of the AMPP.

Butler Leaving Para.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 18.—Frank Butler, 'dean' of Paramount's writing staff, will leave his recently appointed post of production associate to Henry Ginsberg, and will take an extended leave of absence on the advice of his physician. On his return, Butler will resume work as a Paramount contract writer.

KSTP Yields to Petrillo

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 18.—Stanley E. Hubbard, president of radio station KSTP here, has yielded to James C. Petrillo and his American Federation of Musicians, agreeing to employ musicians he had previously described as not needed.

ANOTHER LAUREL FOR "THE SUSPECT"— and Universal is quite happy about it!

LIFE

MAGAZINE SELECTS "THE SUSPECT" AS THE MOVIE OF THE WEEK, ISSUE OF FEBRUARY 19th

"One of his (Laughton's) best roles"...
Time Magazine

"Universal's 'The Suspect' a psychological killer-diller"...
Walter Winchell

"Grade-A spine thriller"
New York Daily News

"A strangely gripping story"...
Liberty Magazine

"No matter what movies 1945 brings, 'The Suspect' will be one of the best"...
Virginia Vale, Western Newspaper Union

Charles LAUGHTON · Ella RAINES
in
The SUSPECT
with DEAN HARENS
STANLEY C. RIDGES · HENRY DANIELL · ROSALIND IVAN
Screen Play by Bertram Millhauser · Adaptation by Arthur T. Horman from a novel by James Ronald
Directed by ROBERT SIODMAK · Produced by ISLIN AUSTER · A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

Photoplay Awards Will Go to 13

(Continued from page 1)

picture of 1944, respectively as a result or the poll conducted by Dr. George Gallup'sAudience Research organization, it has been annouced.

A copyrighted story by Gallup in the current *Photoplay* also lists the 10 most popular pictures of 1944 in the order of the nation's patrons' preferences. Using scientific polling methods as the basis for an award for the first time, the poll was conducted during separate periods of 1944 in order that all pictures and players would have a chance in the final rating.

The ten top pictures of 1944, according to the poll results, were:

"Going My Way," starring Bing Crosby and Barry Fitzgerald, Paramount; "The Story of Dr. Wassell," Gary Cooper, Laraine Day, Paramount; "A Guy Named Joe," Spencer Tracy, Irene Dunne, M-G-M; "Mrs. Parkington," Greer Garson, Walter Pidgeon, M-G-M; "Laura," Gene Tierney, Dana Andrews, 20th Century-Fox; "See Here, Private Hargrove," Robert Walker, Donna Reed, M-G-M; "Destination Tokyo," Cary Grant, John Garfield, Warners; "Two Girls and a Sailor," Van Johnson, June Allyson, Gloria de Haven, M-G-M; "Since You Went Away," Claudette Colbert, Jennifer Jones, Shirley Temple, Joseph Cotten, Selznick-United Artists; "The Sullivans," Anne Baxter, Thomas Mitchell, Selena Royle, 20th Century-Fox.

Johnson, Jones Gain

Polling of the public also reveals that Van Johnson and Jennifer Jones were the male star and actress who gained most in the public's favor during 1944. Several pictures well rated by those who had seen them but which had not played to a sufficiently large proportion of the total audience at the time of the poll's closing in December will be included in 1945 ratings.

The *Photoplay* medals will be presented in the studios of the winners during the week of Feb. 19. The magazine's awards, cited as the oldest in the industry, were made every year from 1919 through 1939, then discontinued. Renewal of the award will be continued annually on the basis of the Gallup findings.

Photoplay Awards to Para., Crosby Today

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 18.—Presentation of the *Photoplay Magazine* 'Gold Medal Awards' will be made tomorrow at a luncheon at Paramount's Studios here. Presentation will be made by Carroll Rheinstrom, vice-president of MacFadden Publications.

The award for "Going My Way" as the most popular picture of 1944, will be accepted on behalf of Paramount by B. G. De Sylva, the film's executive producer. Bing Crosby, star of the film, will be awarded a medal as the most popular film actor of the year.

New Treasury Film

"Mr. and Mrs. America," a 16mm. short subject release of the Treasury Department, is now available to all 16mm. distributors. The film combines new combat footage with appearances of President Roosevelt, Secretary Morgenthau, Phillip Murray, William Green, Eric Johnston, Eddie Albert, and others.

1,300 to Hold Red Cross Rally Here Tomorrow

N. Peter Rathvon, national chairman for the industry's Red Cross 'War Fund Week,' to be observed in theatres on March 15-21, will preside at the breakfast-meeting of over 1,300 showmen, and others, at the Waldorf-Astoria, here, tomorrow morning. Presidents or other executives of all film companies and theatre circuits, as well as all independent exhibitors in the area will also be present.

Arthur Mayer, deputy commissioner for the American Red Cross in the Pacific Ocean area, will be one of the speakers at the meeting which will be the first of 32 similar Red Cross 'War Fund' gatherings scheduled in as many key cities by the industry. Mayer, who has been in the Pacific area since Oct., 1944, returned to the U. S. to participate in the drive. Tomorrow's breakfast was arranged under the chairmanship of Dave Weinstock.

Red Cross Drive Pledges Will Exceed Last Year's

Reports received to date, nearly a month before the start of the industry's Red Cross 'War Fund Week,' March 15-21, show that over half of all theatres that collected last year have signed pledges for participation in the 1945 drive. This, according to Leon J. Bamberger, national campaign director, covers all but two areas in Continental United States. Progress at this rate, it was said, indicates that the number of theatres in the drive will exceed 1944.

Western Pa. Allied In Red Cross Drive

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 18.—Allied Motion Picture Theatre Owners of Western Pennsylvania's board of directors has unanimously endorsed the Red Cross Drive and will enlist the cooperation of its membership in the drive, reports Fred J. Harrington, secretary.

Rathvon, Scully to Head Phila. Rally

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 18.—Preparations for the industry's Red Cross "War Fund Week" for 1945 will get underway at a luncheon meeting on Feb. 24, with N. Peter Rathvon, national chairman, and William A. Scully, attending.

In charge locally will be Earle W. Sweigert, Paramount district manager, as exhibitor chairman, and George E. Schwartz, Universal branch manager, as WAC distributor chairman. It is also expected that Arthur Mayer, who has been serving with the Red Cross in the Southwest Pacific, will also be on hand.

Kirsch, Balaban and Coston Call Drive Meet

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Local distributors and exhibitors serviced out of the Chicago area will attend a luncheon-meeting for the forthcoming Red Cross drive at the Blackstone Hotel, here, on Feb. 23. The committee in charge of the local industry drive comprises Jack Kirsch, John Balaban and James Coston.

Omaha Red Cross Rally On Feb. 26

OMAHA, Feb. 18.—Don McLucas, new War Activity Committee chairman, here, announces that Omaha will hold its Red Cross campaign rally at the Fontenelle Hotel on Feb. 26.

William Miskell, Tri-States Theatres manager, heads exhibitors' drive efforts in this state.

L.A. Collection March 15-21

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 18.—The theatre committee for the Red Cross War Fund drive has set March 15-21 for collections in houses here, with dates for outlying communities to be determined later. A distributor-exhibitor luncheon at the Ambassador Hotel this Friday will precede final preparations for the campaign.

'Little 3' May Not Reply on Clearance

(Continued from page 1)

and United Artists said that the question of acknowledging the Government's decree proposal service on the two companies had not even been considered up to Friday. The answers are due tomorrow.

The five decree companies, Loew's, Paramount, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warners, it is learned, may confine their response to the Government's proposals to a communication setting forth their views on the subject of elimination of clearance between theatres charging substantially the same admission price. These would be sent to the Department of Justice by mail and copies would be sent to Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard, in which case no formal reply briefs or answers would be filed with the court, and no further action would be taken until the March 5 hearing.

Galax Theatre Burned

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 18.—The Galax Theatre was burned here last week. House is managed by Frank V. Merritt.

SPG to Poll Members On UOPWA Combine

Members of the Screen Publicists Guild of New York will be polled by mail starting March 1 on an amalgamation of SPG with the United Office and Professional Workers of America, Local 1, CIO. SPG members voted to put the amalgamation to a referendum.

UOPWA is one of the largest 'white collar' groups in the country numbering almost 55,000 members in the insurance, magazine, book publishing and other industries. Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, representing film company office workers, recently amalgamated with UOPWA.

Navy Cross to Kennedy

The late Navy Lieutenant Joseph Patrick Kennedy, Jr., has been posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for 'extraordinary heroism' on the mission on which he met his death, when his Navy bomber exploded in the air Kennedy, who was 29 at the time of his death, last Aug. 12, was the son of Joseph P. Kennedy, former American Ambassador to Britain, and former film executive.

Five Branches at Today's Para. Meet

(Continued from page 1)

preside at this meeting, the seventh of a series being held by Reagan throughout the country.

In addition to Reagan and Erbb. home office executives will include: G. A. Smith, Western division manager; J. J. Donohue, Central division; Hugh Owen, New York and Southern division; R. M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director; Oscar A. Morgan, general sales manager of short subjects and Paramount News; Claude Lee, director of public relations; Al Wilkie, publicity manager; Alec Moss, exploitation manager; Stanley Shuford, advertising manager. Also present will be C. J. Scollard, H. J. Lorber, A. J. Dunne, Lester Coleman, F. A. Leroy, J. A. Walsh, Joseph Phillipson, G. Knox Haddow, Jack Roper, Stanley Chase, Sam Palmer and Al Finestone.

Field Representatives

Field representatives will include: New York, Milton Kusell, district manager; Henry Randel, Myron Sattler, Nathan Beier, Max Mendel, Al Gebhardt, Edward Bell, Jack Perley; Boston, A. M. Kane, district manager; Ed W. Ruff, John Gubbins, Kenneth Robinson, Edward Bradley, W. L. Hughes, H. O. Lewis, Edward Maloney, John Kane; Buffalo, M. A. Brown, Maurice Simon, George Sussman, Marvin Kempner, S. R. Etkin; Albany, C. G. Eastman, Richard Hayes, Schuyler Beattie, Harold Wyckoff; New Haven, John Moore, Henry Germaine, G. C. Walsh, Richard Carroll.

Also attending will be Arnold Van Leer, district advertising representative for Boston and New Haven; Edward J. Wall, district advertising representative for Buffalo and Albany, and James Harris, Boston district short subjects supervisor.

Reception for Two NBC Air Shows Here

National Broadcasting was host to Dick Powell and press representatives at a dinner and reception at the Cafe Francaise here last night following the broadcast of Powell's 'Fitch Band Wagon' air show.

Cities Service held a reception in the Rainbow Room here Friday night to mark the beginning of its 19th year on the air. Its present "Highways in Melody" NBC air show is conducted by Paul Lavalle.

Lanterns Banned As Theatre Fire Hazard

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Ia., Feb. 18.—Fire Chief Waldo Merrill here has banned the use of lanterns by theatres, contending they constitute a fire hazard.

Council Bluffs, like many other cities in the Omaha area, had been supplementing the 60 watt lighting allowed theatres, with old fashioned lanterns burning candles.

Young Raises Stahl

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 18.—Kenneth Y. Young, chairman of Pathe Industries, Inc., has appointed Marvin Stahl as his assistant. Stahl had been representing the company locally for the past two years.

Morgan, Hale, Paige To 'Co-Pilot' Opener

MACON, Ga., Feb. 18.—At the invitation of the Army Air Forces Relief Society, to which Lucas and Jenkins Theatres and Warners will donate the proceeds of the $10-admission world premiere of "God Is My Co-Pilot," at the Grand Theatre, here, on Wednesday night, three Warner stars will arrive Tuesday to take part in the ceremonies as well as to participate in special war bond activities tied in with the premiere. The stars will include Dennis Morgan, who plays the lead in the picture based on Col. Robert Lee Seott's biography, Alan Hale and Janis Paige.

The visitors will be met at the station by a welcoming committee, which will lead a "Gas-Less" parade to City Hall for a reception by Mayor Charles Bowden as the first of a two-day schedule of events honoring native son Col. Scott, the "one-man army" of the famous Flying Tigers.

Decorating of the line of march with flags of all nations, pennants and other colorful trimmings has been completed.

Blumenstock, Golob and Don Gillette to Macon

Mort Blumenstock, eastern head of Warner Bros.' advertising-publicity, left New York Saturday for Macon, Ga., to participate in the world premiere of "God Is My Co-Pilot" on Wednesday night. He was accompanied by Larry Golob, Eastern publicity manager, and Don Gillette, who handles trade press relations.

Geneseo Clearance Set by Arbitrator

Leo T. Norville, arbitrator in the Chicago tribunal, in ruling on a clearance complaint filed by Marchesi Bros. Theatres, operating the Geneseo, at Geneseo, Ill., against Loew's, Paramount and RKO, has ruled that maximum clearance of the LeClaire and Illini theatres, Moline, over the Geneseo, shall be seven days, the American Arbitration Association reports. Further, the award continued, no clearance shall be imposed upon the Geneseo in favor of the Majestic and Strand theatres, East Moline.

Tri-States Theatres Corp., operating the LeClaire and Illini, intervened.

Chi. 'Sun' Fetes Owners

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—The advertising department of the Chicago *Sun* will be host at a luncheon for exhibitors Tuesday at the Palmer House, here. Whereas, showmen have often honored newsmen, this event is in reverse apparently in appreciation of the success of the amusement section of the Chicago paper.

$6,287 for 'Seeing You'

"I'll Be Seeing You" grossed $6,287 in its opening in San Francisco at the Fox Theatre last Wednesday, and not "Since You Went Away" as was inadvertently reported last Friday.

FILM BOOKER AVAILABLE

Young Lady, experienced 16 and 35 Mm. field. Excellent background. For interview write Box 247, MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Reviews

"Bring on the Girls"

(Paramount)

TO the list of hilariously woeful characters created by Eddie Bracken, add a man worth $200,000,000 who has jilted 12 fiancees in a search for one to love him for his inept, ugly self alone. Since this is a lavish, color musical, he is fool enough to search mostly in night clubs, and whenever the joke wears thin, director Sidney Lanfield can turn the cameras on floor shows, which are tops. A sneak preview audience at New York's Paramount Theatre responded encouragingly.

For that, credit almost equalling Bracken's goes to Veronica Lake, who plays Gold Digger No. 13, and to Sonny Tufts as a lawyer who follows Eddie everywhere to keep him out of harm's way. Their trail leads into the Navy, where, it would seem, a couple of hundred million dollars should be no handicap; and, again since this is a musical, they get stationed in a swank Miami hotel, where Sonny can sit at the piano and turn even a floor-scrubbing scene into a gay, singing, tapping production number. At the club, Marjorie Reynolds is chief vocalist and, being an escaped heiress herself, ultimately proves the answer to the young man's prayer. Meanwhile, under Danny Dare's dance direction, some gorgeous girls in Raul Pene de Bois costumes are displayed, and Spike Jones' orchestra gives forth some catching new Jimmy McHugh-Harold Adamson tunes, in the best of which the sailors sing: "I'm Gonna Hate Myself in the Morning—for Doin' What I'm Doin' Tonight."

As cigarette girl, Miss Lake figures into this locale and later into the nearby mansion which Bracken rents. It has a swimming pool, where the beauties parade to even better advantage and where Eddie figures how to learn what people really think of him: by pretending to go deaf after a high dive. What he hears in this condition brings the film to a climax of satiric fun.

The screenplay, by Karl Tunberg and Darrell Ware, from a story by Pierre Wolff, is awfully good to Bracken, but less inspired in a rocky-road romance it whips up for Tufts and Miss Lake. Fred Kohlmar as associate producer has made nice use of a plentiful purse, especially in Ray Moyer's set decorations.

Running time, 92 minutes. General classification. Release date, March 30.

TOM LOY

"Betrayal From the East"

(RKO Radio)

A POWERFUL, well-paced drama of Japanese treachery prior to Pearl Harbor, "Betrayal from the East" will hold its own with the better low-budget war films, despite its lack of marquee names. The romantic interest is shelved for reality, and while audience sympathy is directed toward two struggling American lovers, caught in the mesh of Nippon intrigue, that angle is eliminated with the eventual death of both.

The story deals with an American, Lee Tracy, formerly in the Army, who, when broke and disgusted, is staked to several thousand dollars by a Japanese friend. The Jap "friend" then seeks to secure plans for the defense of the Panama Canal. Tracy goes to Army Intelligence, and is told to string along with the Jap in an endeavor to trap the ringleaders. Meanwhile, Tracy meets Nancy Kelly, with whom he falls in love. The Japanese discover she is an FBI agent and are about to try Tracy's "loyalty" to them by ordering her murdered.

At Panama, Tracy secures fake plans, submits them to the Japs, and his escape is secured only through the actual death of Nancy Kelly, who turned up to warn him, and is then scalded to death by a Nazi, working with the Japanese. Tracy finally traps the Jap leaders, but is shot to death before aid arrives. The beginning and end of the film have a narration by Drew Pearson, who emphasizes the factual portion of the story, stressing the necessity of continual preparedness against possible sabotage now.

Director William Berke keeps the action moving, aided by a good script by Kenneth Gamet and Aubrey Wisberg. Miss Kelly takes top acting honors, with Tracy inadequate in those spots where the Japs' belief in him, despite his stumbling and clumsy efforts at covering his true position, do not speak too highly of the intelligence of their undercover men. Regis Toomey, Richard Loo, Abner Biberman and Philip Ahn are all excellent in supporting bits. Cameraman Russell Metty and producer Herman Schlom both deserve credit for their parts in making this film forceful, suspenseful and believable.

Running time, 82 minutes. General classification. Release date not set.

EDWARD SMITH

Fight Surrey Blue Law

LONDON, Feb. 18.—The general council of the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association is seeking a court decision on whether the Surrey County Council acted illegally in forbidding children to attend films on Sundays.

Blair to Boston

BOSTON, Feb. 18.—Harry N. Blair, Eastern advertising-publicity manager for PRC, will arrive here tomorrow, to be host at a luncheon Wednesday for Boston critics, preceding the Boston premiere of "Bluebeard" at the Trans-Lux Theatre.

$16,000 for Dimes

ATLANTA, Feb. 18.—William K. Jenkins, president of Georgia Theatres, reports $16,000 in March of Dimes collections for the Capital, Roxy, Paramount and Fox Theatres, which is far in excess of last year's drive.

Fields Are Hosts

OMAHA, Feb. 18.—Harry and Herman Fields, of the Pioneer Theatre Circuit, were hosts to their managers in this territory at the company's annual meeting at the Fontenelle Hotel, recently.

Cites Films' War Production Boost

Motion pictures are the ideal medium to boost war production by stimulating a voluntary effort on the part of labor and management, Rear Admiral Clark H. Woodward, chief of the industrial incentive division of the Navy declared during a broadcast of the Boston Symphony Orchestra on the Blue Network, on Saturday.

Admiral Woodward disclosed that Navy incentive films are currently being shown in approximately 4,000 war plants throughout the country and in many foreign countries and outlying territories. Over 1,500,000 people monthly view the Navy films, the Admiral said. He pointed out that one of the Navy films, "December 7th," won an Academy Award in 1943 and that another film in current circulation and described as one of the most effective, has been seen by 400,000 workers in its first three months of distribution.

Showings are held in factory aisles, locker rooms and wherever showings can be arranged, Admiral Woodward said. The pictures are made from official combat footage that frequently never reaches the general public, since Navy incentive film showings are restricted exclusively to war workers, he pointed out.

TBA Given Marconi Awarded by VWOA

"The electric wonders achieved during the past 20 years are merely a forerunner of the things to come during the next quarter of a century," J. R. Poppele, president of Television Broadcasters Association declared Saturday night at the 20th anniversary dinner of the Veteran Wireless Operators Association at the Hotel Astor here.

Poppele accepted the Marconi Memorial Plaque presented to TBA by the VWOA "for the initiative TBA has shown in banding together the television interests of the nation in order to insure American pre-eminence in television."

TBA Directors to Meet

A meeting of the board of directors of the Television Broadcasters Association will be held at the TBA offices, next Friday, Feb. 23. Members of the engineering committee of the association will meet earlier on the same day.

TBA Publishes Report

Television Broadcasters Association has issued a 223-page report of the proceedings at the first annual conference held at the Hotel Commodore, last December. It includes a summary of all reports delivered at the panel meeting on theatre television.

Jordan Leaves 'U'

ATLANTA, Feb. 18.—Charles Jordan, for 30 years with Universal, here, has resigned.

--THEATRE FOR SALE--

Located in good Southern city, theatre of 1,250 seats, new construction, modern. Priced at $190,000.00 with $40,000.00 Cash. REAL ESTATE SERVICE COMPANY, 1730 Candler Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.

COLUMBIA PICTURES
PRESENTS

A Sidney Buchman Production

A Song to Remember

IN TECHNICOLOR

starring

Paul MUNI · *Merle* OBERON

WITH CORNEL WILDE

NINA FOCH · GEORGE COULOURIS

Screen Play by Sidney Buchman

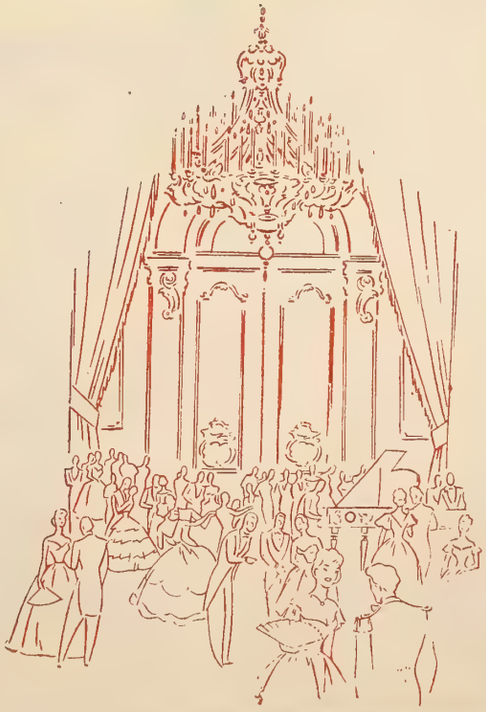
Directed by CHARLES VIDOR

MORE FACTS!

ABOUT THE SENSATIONAL SUCCESS OF ONE OF THE GREATEST PICTURES OF ALL TIME!

COLUMBIA PICTURES

A SONG TO REMEMBER is now in its 4th tremendous week at Radio City Music Hall, following a 3rd week that topped the 2nd, and a 2nd that was even bigger than the 1st great week. In San Francisco and Oakland, all records for both houses are again being broken in the 5th week of two amazing engagements, after all-time marks had been shattered in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th weeks. Sensational business is being done in Buffalo, where A SONG TO REMEMBER is now in its 2nd smash week. *Everywhere* the story is the same . . . held over in Springfield, Mass., move-overs in Worcester, Bridgeport, New Haven . . . a stupendous 4th week in Cincinnati . . . and week after sock week in Boston, St. Louis and New Orleans. The *facts* prove that everything promised for A SONG TO REMEMBER is coming true.



Maul- und Klauenseuche in Karlsruhe betr.

Nachdem in der Stallung der Gottesauer-Brauerei in Karlsruhe unter dem Viehbestand der Firma Fichter u. Co. in Karlsruhe die Maul- und Klauenseuche ausgebrochen ist, wird das genannte Seuchengehöft mit dem Viehbestand der Firma Fichter und dem Schweinebestand der Landwirtschaftskammer Karlsruhe, welch letzterer in der verseuchten Stallung in besonderem Raume untergebracht ist, mit sofortiger Wirkung als

Sperrbezirk

mit den aus §§ 161 ff. der Ausführungsvorschriften zum Reichsviehseuchengesetz sich ergebenden Wirkungen erklärt.

Karlsruhe, den 10. Januar 1925.

Bezirksamt. — Polizeidirektion B.
O.-Z. 2.

Wohnungstausch.

Große 5 Zimmerwohnung in bester Lage Bismarckstraße gegen gute 4—5 Zimmerwohnung im Zentrum oder Südstadt zu tauschen gesucht. Gefl. Angebote unter Nr. 2586 ins Tagblattbüro.

Wohnungs-Tausch.

Biete: 3 Zimmer mit Bad 2c. in guter Lage der Weststadt.
Suche: 5—6 Zimmer, mögl. mit Bad u. guter Lage.
Angebote unter Nr. 2562 ins Tagblattbüro erbet.

Wohnungs-Tausch.

Gesucht: 4 Zimmer mit Komfort, Herrschaftswohnung oder ev. Einfamilienhaus mit 7—8 Zimmern für 2 Familien teilbar, südwestl. Lage. Späterer Kauf nicht ausgeschl.) Geboten: Herrschaftl. 6 Zimmerwohnung mit Komfort in vornehmster zentraler Lage der Kriegstr. Gefl. Angebote unt. Nr. 2559 ins Tagblattbüro erbeten.

Im Herbst 1925 beziehbare

3- u. Mehrzimmerwohnungen

in guter Stadtlage gegen möglichst sofort verfügbaren, angemessenen Bauzuschuß zu vermieten. Angebote mit Angabe, ob Vordringlichkeitskarte vorhanden, unter Nr. 2567 i. Tagblattbüro erbet.

1—2 Zimmer

leer oder teilweise möbliert.
Angebote unter Nr. 2575 ins Tagblattbüro erbeten.

Möbl. Zimmer

od. 2. von Herrn in angef. Stellung sof. gesucht. Zentrum oder Westen bevorzugt. Angebote unter Nr. 2594 ins Tagblattbüro erbeten.

Verein gegen Haus- und Straßenbettel.

Einladung zur Hauptversamml. am Dienstag, d. 13. Jan. d. J., abs. 7½ Uhr, im kleinen Saal des städt. Konzertsaales. Tagesordnung: 1. Aufgabe u. Zweck des Vereins. 2. Wahl des Vorstandes. 3. Festsetzung des Jahresbeitrages. 4. Anfertigung v. Mitgliedsschild. 5. Ausgabe von Wohlfahrtskarten. 6. Verschied.

Sauer,
1. Bürgermeister.

Wohnungstausch

Wohnungstausch.

Geboten: 4 Zimmer m. Küche, Mansarde, Bad, Balkon u. Zubehör, in schöner, freier Lage Durlachs.
Gesucht: Ebenso in Karlsruhe.
Angebote unt. Nr. 2544 ins Tagblattbüro erbet.

Wohnungstausch!

Pforzheim—Karlsruhe
auf 1. April d. Js. Eine schöne 4 Zimmerwohnung mit Bad, Mädchenkammer, geräumiger Küche, 2 Keller, Gas und Elektrisch, in bestem Viertel Pforzheims wird gegen eine gleichwertige 4—5 Zimmerwohnung in Karlsruhe zu tausch. gesucht. Angebote unt. Nr. 2448 ins Tagblattbüro erbet.

Tausch.

Suche schöne, moderne

Zimmerwohnung

in guter Weststadtlage. Biete sehr schöne mod. 3 Zimmerwohnung mit Diele, Bad, Mansarde, Speicherk. in gleicher Lage od. mod. 4 Zimmerwohnung. Evtl. Umzugsvergütg. Angeb. u. Nr. 2536 ins Tagblatt.

Wohnungstausch.

Heidelberg.
2 große Zimmer und Küche im 4. Stock geg. ebensolche in Karlsruhe

Herr sucht in gutem Hause in schöner Lage

möbl. Zimmer

mit elektr. Licht Dampfheizung, ev. Bad Gefl. Angebote unt. Nr. 2529 ins Tagblattbüro erbet.

Von ruhig., kinderlos. Ehepaar wird v. sof. od. später eine 2 Zimmerwohnung g. entspr. Abfind. gesucht. Vordringlichkeitsk. vorh. Ang. u. Nr. 2505 ins Tagblatt.

Zimmer,

groß, möbl. oder unmöbl. von beff. Herrn zu mieten ges. Ang. u. Nr. 2495 ins Tagblatt.

Jg. Kaufmann sucht großes, leeres Zimmer in beff. Hause, mögl. m. elektr. Licht, auf 1. Februar 25. Angeb. u. Nr. 2469 ins Tagblatt. erb.

Tagsüber gut möbliertes, sehr ruhiges, Zimmer ohne Bett. Studien halber f. sehr gebildeten Herrn, Kühl. Krug-Viertel, gesucht, womögl. Hübsch-Weltzien- od. Liebigstr. Umgeb. Angeb. u. Nr. 2589 ins Tagblatt. erb.

Für ältere Dame oder Herrn,

Jung., geb. Kinderl. Ehepaar sucht 2 unmöbl. Zimmer mit Küchenbenützg. Hausarbeit wird übern. Angeb. sof. unt. Nr. 2521 ins Tagblatt.

Gesucht

1 Zimmer mit 2 Betten Nähe Adlerstr. Gewerbeschule. Angebote u. Nr. 2524 ins Tagblatt. erb

Tüchtige

Friseuse

kann alsbald eintreten. Wo? sagt das Tagblattbüro.

Suche bis 15. Febr. für ältere, alleinstehende Dame nach Mannheim eine im Kochen u. allen Hausarbeiten gut erfahrene, sol., fleiß., ehrl.

Stütze

(20—30 Jahre) aus gut bürgerl. Famil., k. Näh. u. Bügeln bew. Gute Behandl., Fam.-Anschl., Anfangsgeh. pro Mon. 45 ℳ. Beding.: Gute Auskünfte. Photogr.
Fr. Gust. Kremer Wwe.
Mannheim,
Friedrichsplatz 6.

Allein-Mädchen

tüchtig und selbständig für sofort in kleinen Haushalt gesucht. Wasch- und Putzfrau wird gehalten. Vorzustellen bei Leyser, Durlach, Hauptstraße 70.
Fahrgeld wird vergütet.

Mädchen

od. einf. Stütze, die gut kochen und backen kann und besseres

Zimmermädchen,

das servieren, bügeln u. nähen kann, für Villenhaushalt (2 Person.) bei gutem Lohn zum 1. Februar gesucht.
Frau Prof. Dr. Meyer,
Mannheim,
am oberen Luisenpark 13.

Ein zuverlässiges, im Haushalt erfahr., durchaus ehrliches Mädchen mit guten Zeugnissen findet in gutem Hause sofort Stellung als

Zimmermädchen.

Beiertheimer Allee 70.

Einige Stunden im Vormittag und Freitag nachm. wird tücht., ehrl. Frau gesucht. Nähe Festhalle. Angeb. u. Nr. 2565 ins Tagblatt. erb.

Männlich

Ein junger

— Schneider —

gesucht auf Kleinstück.
Hirschstraße 25.

Gehalt

und Mk. 20.— bis 40.— tägl. verdien. bei Landwirten u. Viehhaltern eingeführte Vertreter.
Schulz & Co., Berlin
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Tagl. bis **10 Mk.** zu verdienen. Näh. im Prospekt (mit Garantieschein). Joh. H. Schultz, Adressenverlag Köln 526.

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findet sofort gute Stellung unter Einsendung von Photographie und Zeugnissen an
Hotel Lindenhof,
Hanau a. M.

Stellen-Gesuche

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Vertrauensstellung

jeglich. Art sucht abgeb. techn. Eisenbahnbeamter (ohne Pension). Absolute Zuverlässigk. Gute Referenzen. Angebote u. Nr. 2458 ins Tagblatt.

Bitte!

Für älter., zuverl. Herrn in Büro u. Betrieb verwendbar, wird Beschäftigung gesucht. Angeb. unt Nr 2490 i. Tagblattbüro

Welcher Schneidermeister würde meinem Sohn, d. 1½ Jahre gelernt hat, weit. ausbilden g. Kost u. Logis? Am liebst. n. auswärts. Angeb. unt.

Junger Kaufmann, 22½ Jahre, in allen kaufmänn. Büroarbeiten bewandert, mit guten Zeugnissen, sucht per 1. Februar pass. Stellung. Angebote unt. Nr. 2500 ins Tagblattbüro erbet.

Verkäufe

Landhaus,

15 Min. von Karlsruhe, schöne, freie Lage, fließ. Wasser, gr. Obst- und Gemüsegarten, zu verk. Evtl. Tausch auf Haus in Karlsruhe. Antrag. Rückp. Angebote unt. Nr. 2513 ins Tagblatt.

Wohnhaus

mit Laden u. geräumig. Werkstätte in Durlach, für jeden Betrieb geeignet. Nähe d. Hauptstr., zu günstigen Bedingungen zu verkaufen. Angebote unt. Nr. 2508 ins Tagblattbüro erbet.

Basel, 3 m breit, u. Kredenz, pr. Arbeit, günst. b. s. vk. Hischmann, Jahringerstr. 29. Möbl.

2 Div.-Schreibtische,

2 gleiche Betten, Kohlenbadeofen, versch. Oefen, weiß. Emailherd, sonst. M bel. zu verkaufen.
Wilhelm-Str. 54, II.
An- und Verkauf

Gut erhaltene

Nähmaschine

preiswert zu verkaufen.
Amalienstr. 25a, III.

Fässer,

neue, von 100—850 Ltr., hat zu verk. Ferd. Fellbauer, Küferei. Waldstraße 54. Herrenstr. 48.

Ica Ideal 111

Maximar 1:5,4 Plattengröße 6½ × 9, Compur-Verschluß bis 1/250, 5 Anlegekassetten, Ledertasche mit Tragriemen für ca. 50% des Neuwertes in sehr gutem Zustande zu verkaufen. Angeb. unter Nr 2487 i. Tagblattbüro.

N.S.U.-Wagen,

Zweisitzer, fahrbereit, billig zu verkaufen:
Georg-Friedrichstr. 22, 3. Stock, rechts.
Telephon 1515.

Herrenrad

für 45 ℳ, Damen-Rad für 65 ℳ, gut erhalt., zu verkauf.
Bulach,
Hauptstr. 181, Mers.

Herrenrad bereits neu, mit Torp.-Freil., 55 ℳ zu verk. Wielandtstr. 20, parterre.

Aelteres

Mädchen,

zuverlässig im Kochen b. guter Behandlung und Verpflegung für sofort gesucht. Angeb. unt. Nr. 2593 i. Tagblattbüro.

Emailherde,

emaillierte Wasch- und Wurstkessel m. Feuerung. Gasherde, Herdschiffe, Ersatzteile u. Reparatur.
Zahlungs-Erleichterung.
Ph. Kranz,
Gartenstraße 10.

Emailherde!

Raftatter, zu günstigen Preisen u. Bedingungen.
Andlauer, Grenzstr. 10.

Zu verkauf. gr., guter

Kachelofen,

ein Bügeleisen.
Beiertheimer Allee 34.

Gasheizofen

u. kl. Schlosserherd, gebr. z. v. Gartenstr. 58, II. l.

Gut., flamm. Gasherd billig abzugeben, ebenso 1 Petroleumofen.
Kaiser-Allee 25a, part.

Flamm. Gaskocher mit Tisch, wie neu, wegen Platzmangel zu verkaufen u. ein Petroleum-Heizofen, noch gut erh., abzugeb. Binder, Schillerstraße 50, 3. Stock.

Harmonium

zu verkaufen.
Rep. u. Stimmung,
daselbst.
B. Stechmaier,
Klavierbauer,
Kleinstr. 20.

Automat.-Spieluhr

mit 10 Platten billig zu verkaufen. Daselbst ist auch ein

Wolfshund

billig abzugeben. Zu erfr. Beiertheim

Zu verkaufen

circa 6 kg

Künstler-Oelfarben

Angebote unter Nr. 2537 ins Tagblattbüro erbeten.

Echten Schwarzwälder

Bienenhonig

zu verkaufen. Gefäße mitbringen.
Kurvenstr. 10, II. r.

Smoking,

Größe 46.

Paletot

gut erhalt., bill. zu verk. Zu erfrag. Herrenstr. 33 im Laden.

Elektr. Zuglampe

zu kaufen gesucht. Preisangebote unt. Nr. 2493

Schlafzimmer

solide Schrein, preiswert zu v. Näh. Sofienstr.

Neue Nähm. sehr preiswert kauf., auch Teil. Kronenstr. 46, Dürrne.

Grammop

Platten auf Teilzahlun. Pianohaus G. Kronenstr 10.

Grammophon

55 ℳ u. Damen abzugeben:
Kaiserplatz

Schnauz

1½ J. alt, r. Stammbaum. Erfr. Westend.

Junge, raffe

Schnau

(Rattenfänger) lig abzugeben: Marienstr. 52.

Sehr wachsame

Schäferhu

2 Jahre alt, gu. bill. z. verkauf. Sch zenstraße 2

Kanarienh

gute Sän. und Bedme. zu verkaufen: Auerstraße 5.

Kaufgesuch

— Haus

in gut. Lage vo. Käufer zu kaufen. Angebote unt. ins Tagblattbü.

Haus, gleich, zu kauf. durch Ang. G. Hypotheken u. T. Hirschstraße Telephon 2

Wohnha mit Einfa

in gutem Zust. sofort zu kaufen. Angebote mit unter Nr. 2590 blattbüro erbete.

Bauplat

gesucht für kle. mittl. Einfamil. Lage Bahnhof Südweststadt 2c. zahlung. Angeb. mit Angabe d. Straße, Straß. Flächeninhalt 2c. Nr. 2457 ins T. büro erbeten.

Zahlungsfähige In- Auslandsdeutsche s. ev. Baranzahlung

Grundbe

mit u. ohne Geschäft Fabriken, Gasthöfe besitze usw. Besitz. Ernst Griesche Braunschweig

Bauplatz od.

in guter Gesch. (Kaiserstr. od. S. zu kaufen ge. Angebote unt. N. ins Tagblattbüro

Zu kaufen ge. Büffet oder B. Plüschdiwan, Se. Ausziehtisch u. e. Angebote unt. N. ins Tagblattbüro

Ladeneinrichtung gal, Tresen, Kell. gel., passd. für Geschäft, zu kaufen. Angebote unt. N. ins Tagblattbüro

Wohnzimmer richtung, gut er. Privat. sen gesucht. A. mit Preis unt. N. ins Tagblattbüro

Piano, gebr., v. kauf. sucht gegen Bar. Angebote unt. N. ins Tagblattbüro

Büro-Schreibtisch

mögl. amerik. m. gesucht. Angebote Nr. 2592 i. Tagbl.

Zu kaufen gesu. gut erhaltener emaillierter

Waschkesse

Angebote mit P. Nr. 2519 ins Tag.

Gut erhaltener

Stubenwag

zu kauf. ges. An.

Publik Notize

We wish to have back quick our confidential files and our secret guest lists. It is not good they should fall in the hands of Warner Bros.

HOTEL BERLIN

Kapitalien

Wer leiht einem Geschäftsmann

500 Mk.

auf 14 Tage? Prima Sicherh. u. guten Zins. Gefl. Angeb. unt. Nr. 2591 i. Tagblattbüro.

100—120 Mark

v. Selbstgeber geg. Zins und gute Sicherheit zu leih. gesucht (kurze Zeit). Angebote unt. Nr. 2528 ins Tagblattbüro erbet.

Kapitalgesuch

auf prima 1. Hypothek. b. gut. Zins u. Gewinnbeteiligung, monatl. zahlb. Vormerksge. für jeden Betrag vorh. u. kostenl. l. Geldgeb. Ackermann, Kriegstr. 86.

Für die Küche tüchtige

Putz- und Spülfrau

gesucht. Vorzustellen Samstag vormittag von 10—12 Uhr.
Schaerer & Co.,
Karlsruhe-Rheinhafen.

Zimmer

Wegen Versetzung kleines, gut möbl. Zimmer, leicht heizb., an nur sol., beff. Herrn per 1. Febr. zu verm. Anzusch. 12—2 U.: Scheffelstr. 2. 2. Stock, links.

Wohn- und Schlafzimmer, gut möbliert, zu vermieten.
Zu erfragen Akademiestraße 48, eine Treppe.

Brauerstraße 9, part., freundl., gut möbl. Zimmer an beff. Herrn zu vermieten.

Hübsch möbl. Zimmer, gut heizb., m. Elektr. an sol. Herrn sof. zu verm. Goethestr. 25, III. lks.

Freundl. möbl. Zimmer, elektr. Licht, heizbar, an soliden, besseren Herrn zu vermieten: Nelkenstr. 15, 2. Stock.

Möbl. Zimmer sof. zu vermiet. an beff. berufstätiges Fräulein. Kapellenstr. 16, III. r.

Möbl. Wohn- u. Schlafzimmer zu vermieten.
Markgrafenstr. 47, II. b. Rondellplatz.

Möbl. Zimmer

per 12. d. Mts. zu vermiet. Akademiestr. 71, pt.

Nähmaschine 70 ℳ, Herrenrad, wie neu, 55

3000 Goldmark

gegen 20 fache Sicherheit von Fabrikunternehmen mit Landwirtschaft per sofort oder in 2—3 Monaten aufzunehmen gesucht. Zeitgemäße Zinsvergütung. Angebote unter Nr. 2584 ins Tagblattbüro.

Bezirksleiter

Wir suchen einen organisatorisch befähigten Herrn mit einem eigenen flottgehenden Lastauto von etwa 4000 Mk zur Übernahme des Vertriebs in Karlsruhe. Es wollen sich nur bestbeleumdete Herren (auch ehemalige Militärs, Beamte, Akademiker) melden, die ihre Verdienst je nach Leistungsfähigkeit etwa 1000 bis 1500 Mk. Branchekenntnisse nicht

Stütze

22 Jahre alt, im Haushalt u. Kochen erfahren, sucht sofort Stellung.
Bard. Tubach,
Neustadt a. d. Haardt,
Wielenstraße 2.

Männlich

Junger, tüchtiger

Schuhmacher,

mit allen vorkommenden Arbeiten vertraut, sucht Stellung.
Gefl. Angebote unter Nr. 2572 ins Tagblattbüro erbeten.

Junger Mann,

selbständig in kaufmännischer Korrespondenz, sucht Stellung auf 1. März 1925.
Angebote unt. Nr. 2523 ins Tagblattbüro erbet.

Großer, verleimbarer

Schrank

ℳ 35. Wäscheschrank ℳ 45, Aktenschrank ℳ 38, kl. Aktenschrank ℳ 25, großer Teppich ℳ 30, Büro-Stühle ℳ 3 und ℳ 2.50, Küchenschrank ohne Aufsatz ℳ 8, Waschbank ℳ 6, Tisch ℳ 6 u. ℳ 8, Blocker ℳ 7 zu verkauf. H. Sonntag, Karl-Friedrichstr. 19.

Kaufm. Lehrstelle

wird auf Ostern v. Abiturient gesucht. Angebote unter Nr. 2588 ins Tagblattbüro erbet.

Nr. 2582 ins Tagblatt.

Kücheneinrichtung, weiß, in tadellos. Zust., 50 ℳ, Deckbett., rot 20 ℳ, Kissen 7 ℳ zu verkaufen.
Schlöske,
Körnerstr 38. Hth. II

Sichere Existenz.

Möbelgeschäft, seit 25 Jahren am Platze, zugehend, mit Haus zu verkaufen.
Ge. Fleischmann,
Augustastraße 9.
Telephon 2724.

Prima

Läufer sowie **fette Schweine**

in jeder Größe und Preislage sind fortwährend zu haben bei

Schweinehändler Maier.

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 15-21

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 15-21

VOL. 57. NO. 35 NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1945 TEN CENTS

THE COPY DO NOT REMOVE

Theatres Fare Well Under NY Building Code

Any Drastic Changes to Be Fought by Exhibition

No seriously adverse decisions have been made by the New York State Labor Department's advisory committee which is promulgating a new building code for theatres in the State, except New York City, which can be considered adverse to the industry.

It was emphasized that present decisions being made by the committee as they affect new theatre constructions are tentative, with final determination to be made when the committee visits actual theatres upon completion of consideration of the code.

Thus far the committee has reviewed provisions as they apply to

(*Continued on page* 12)

Foreign Printing May Be Staggered

Cuts sustained by the industry in raw stock allocations for the first quarter of this year may signify a commensurate cut in prints for foreign distribution, it is generally agreed by distributor spokesmen here, with some territories being forced to set back release by several months.

Companies are faced with several

(*Continued on page* 12)

Strike Ends at 18 Winnipeg Theatres

Toronto, Feb. 19.—Eleven Western Theatres, Ltd., houses in Winnipeg and seven of Famous Players-Canadian reopened today as the projectionists' strike which had kept them closed since last Wednesday ended with submission to the Regional War Labor Board of the jurisdictional dispute between IATSE and One Big Union.

Grosses Hold Up at N.Y. First-Runs; Two Holidays a Help

Business continues to hold up well at New York's first-run theatres, with several houses expected to benefit substantially in current week's receipts from Washington's Birthday business and an extra school holiday on Friday, the latter as a fuel conservation measure.

Of new arrivals, the Capitol's "The Guest in the House," teamed with a show featuring Ralph Edwards, Gloria Jean and Sonny Dunham's orchestra, is headed for a big $74,000 for a first week. The Criterion expects a sturdy $33,000 for its initial week of "Here Come the Co-Eds."

"The Princess and the Pirate" at the Astor, "The Woman in the Window," at the Palace, and "The Three Caballeros" at the Globe, are expected to bring heavy grosses on holdover

(*Continued on page* 10)

Reagan Sees 'Bell' Best Para. Grosser

Paramount anticipates that "For Whom the Bell Tolls" will achieve the highest gross in the company's history, Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution told a

(*Continued on page* 12)

U. S. Bans Midnight Shows Feb. 26

Washington, Feb. 19.—A curfew of midnight shows in all parts of the country starting Feb. 26 was ordered here today by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes as a measure designed to save fuel supplies. In addition to theatres, night clubs, arenas and other places of entertainment are affected.

The curfew will eliminate midnight and post-midnight shows commonly given on weekends and holidays in Broadway houses and other first-runs throughout the country. Presumably, there will be slight effect on neighborhood and subsequent-run houses, which for the most part end their programs prior to midnight.

Mediation Ended on SOPEG Contract

Negotiations between the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild and representatives of Loew's, 20th Century-Fox, RKO, Paramount and Columbia, aided by Commissioner James W. Fitzpatrick of the U. S. Conciliation Service, has ended here without agreement on any points in

(*Continued on page* 10)

Industry 'Kick-Off' for Red Cross Drive Today

This morning 1,300 industry representatives from the Metropolitan New York and New Jersey area are gathered at a breakfast-meeting in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel to "kick-off" the first of 32 key city meetings scheduled to precede the start of the 1945 Red Cross "War Fund Week," March 15-21, in the nation's 16,000 theatres.

The meetings, organized for the purpose of integrating and initiating plans for theatre activities, are being held under the auspices of the Red Cross drive national committee of the industry's War Activities Committee.

Members of the national film committee for the campaign include: N. Peter Rathvon, national chairman; Major L. E. Thompson, executive coordinator; Leon J. Bamberger, campaign director, and his associate, Leon Brecher; S. Barret McCormick and Harry Mandel, publicity directors; Arthur M. Brilant, publicity coordinator; Gradwell L. Sears, distributor chairman; H. M. Schnitzer and Ber-

(*Continued on page* 7)

WPB Halts All By-Passing Of 'Brownout'

Washington Sees Curbs Continued Thru Summer

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The War Production Board today clamped down on the use of any and all expedients to by-pass the prohibitions of the "Brownout" order upon the lighting of theatre and other advertising signs, all marquee lighting in excess of 60 watts and all show windows.

It held that the prohibitions apply to the use of electricity for lighting both in and out of such areas.

To this end, WPB officials said, it is not permissible to increase interior lighting to throw more illumination into show windows or under marquees, nor is it permissible to install spotlights or other devices to light outside signs from the interior of any establishment.

Unofficial indications are that the "Brownout" may be continued right through the summer, chiefly as a means of permitting the building up of depleted coal stocks as a safeguard against new fuel shortages next Winter.

Curb Gas Heating Use in East Again

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—A two-day ban on the consumption of natural or mixed fuel gas by all film theatres and other amusement enterprises in the Appalachian area was imposed today by the Office of War Utilities, effective at nightfall tonight, as a new siege of cold weather slowed down the

(*Continued on page* 10)

5 Reviews Today

Reviews of "Eadie Was a Lady," "The Jade Mask" appear on page 12; "The Unseen," "A Song for Miss Julie," "The Chicago Kid," page 15.

They do not fail us. We shall not fail them.

Propose $8,130,375 Mass. Theatre Levy

BOSTON, Feb. 19.—Louis T. Capelle, Dorchester, has petitioned for taxation of exhibitors at the rate of one dollar per reel, before a joint state legislative committee on taxation. Proceeds are estimated to average about $8,130,375 yearly and would be used for financing care of ill, wounded and disabled veterans of all wars, to pay for old age assistance and to finance the care of widows and orphans of deceased veterans.

If the new bill does not meet with the approval of the legislators, Capelle said a graduated scale of taxation based on seating capacity might be substituted.

Also introduced, by Leo J. Sullivan, was a petition setting forth that "no ticket to any amusement house or licensed theatre shall be sold for more than the price set forth on the ticket." This met with strenuous opposition at once from ticket agencies and a bitter fight is anticipated. Sullivan has also introduced a bill requiring the raising of annual license fees for ticket agencies to $1,000 and requiring such agencies to post a $10,000 bond.

Both the Capelle and Sullivan bills have drawn the fire of all theatres, motion picture or otherwise, and of the agencies.

United Artists Will Release 'The Outlaw'

United Artists announced here yesterday that "The Outlaw," Howard Hughes' much discussed picture, will be released late this Summer or early in the Fall. The film is part of the deal recently announced whereby Preston Sturges and Hughes joined the ranks of independent producers releasing through United Artists.

It had been held from major company distribution because of an absence of a Production Code seal, for which Hughes had originally refused to make some deletions, even considering, for a time, independent road showing after a single premiere performance in San Francisco, about two years ago.

Ed McNamee, NSS Ad Manager, Quits

Edward McNamee, advertising manager of National Screen Service, here, since May, 1942, yesterday resigned his position with that company

McNamee, an industry veteran, was a newspaperman, actor and theatre manager before he entered distribution. Prior to joining NSS, he had been with Fox and First National doing publicity and exploitation.

Para. Promotes Harris

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 19.—Paramount has promoted short subjects producer Louis Harris to feature production. He will be succeeded by George Templeton as featurette producer.

Personal Mention

SAMUEL GOLDWYN left New York for England over the weekend.

•

WILLIAM GARRING, 20th Century-Fox Western division manager, and his assistant, E. H. COLLINS, are visiting the Salt Lake City exchange, after which Garring will leave for Los Angeles and Collins for the East.

•

MORRIS FITZER of the New York office of *Hollywood Reporter* and MRS. FITZER are parents of a baby girl, SAUNDRA, born last weekend at Beth Israel Hospital.

•

TED TUTTLE, manager of the Astor, East Hartford, has been discharged from St. Francis Hospital there, where he was treated for a broken arm.

•

LYNN FARNOL, Samuel Goldwyn Prod. publicity head, is scheduled to leave for the Coast today following a New York visit of several weeks.

•

F. J. A. MCCARTHY, Universal Southern and Canadian sales manager, returned to New York from Canada over the weekend.

•

FRED A. ROHRS, PRC district manager, is in Cleveland and vicinity on two weeks of business with circuit and independent film buyers.

•

MALCOLM KINGSBERG, RKO Theatres vice-president and treasurer, is expected back from vacation at the end of this week.

•

T. E. LAIRD, assistant to FRED JACK, United Artists Southern division manager, has been visiting in Atlanta.

•

ROY E. BRAUER, Universal Atlanta branch manager, is in Birmingham on business.

•

HOUSTON DUVAL, Columbia New Orleans branch manager, is visiting in Atlanta.

•

HARRY PAUL of the Wil-Kin Supply Co., Atlanta, is on a 10-day business trip to Florida.

•

B. B. GARNER of Florida State Theatres, Jacksonville, has been in Atlanta for a visit.

•

JOE FARROW, M-G-M Philadelphia office manager, is in a hospital there for an operation.

GEORGE DEMBOW is expected in New York from the Coast tomorrow.

•

ROY ROBBINS, manager of Warner's Boyd, Philadelphia, has left for the New Cumberland, Pa., Army induction center. MAURICE CONNOR replaces him.

•

J. J. UNGER, United Artists Western district sales manager, returned to New York yesterday from a trip through his territory.

•

G. A. NICHOLSON, booker at the Hollywood exchange, Philadelphia, is in Jefferson Hospital there following an emergency appendectomy.

•

J. ROBERT RUBIN, vice-president and general counsel of M-G-M, will return to New York from the Coast Feb. 27.

•

H. C. FULLER, manager of Sheffield Republic, Salt Lake City, has returned there from Hollywood.

•

DON TIBBS, Monogram exchange manager at Salt Lake City, has returned there from Nevada.

•

HERBERT CROOKER, M-G-M director of publicity, will leave Hollywood today for New York.

•

ABE SCHNEIDER, Columbia vice-president and treasurer, returned here yesterday from the Coast.

•

FRANK N. PHELPS, Warner Circuit executive, left here yesterday for Boston and will return Thursday.

•

RAY MYERS, manager of William Goldman's Karlton, Philadelphia, has left to join the Army.

•

MARTHA CLARK, RKO Philadelphia booker, has returned to her desk after a serious illness.

•

SAM PEARLMAN, manager of Loew's Kameo, Brooklyn, is the father of a girl, GRACE MARGARET.

•

CHARLES STERN, Loew assistant treasurer, has returned from a two-week Atlantic City vacation.

•

"BUCK" WADE, Universal Salt Lake City manager, is in Montana on business.

•

ROSE LESCHER, M-G-M cashier, is on vacation.

Acme's 'Galax' Damaged

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 19.—The Galax Theatre has been badly damaged and its equipment completely destroyed by fire, reports Frank Merritt, president of the Acme Theatre Co.

Two Ohio Houses Burn

CLEVELAND, Feb. 19.—Two theatres in this area are closed on account of fires, the Lyceum at Findlay, and the Spicer, Akron. Both will reopen as soon as damage is repaired.

NEW YORK THEATRES

SECOND WEEK
INSIDE THE RACKETS!
Mobland's Gats Blaze Again!
1st N. Y. Showing
"THE CHICAGO KID"
A Republic Picture
with
DONALD BARRY
OTTO KRUGER
TOM POWERS
REPUBLIC THEATRE
B'way, Bet. 51st & 52nd Streets

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Showplace of the Nation • Rockefeller Center
"A SONG TO REMEMBER"
PAUL MUNI • MERLE OBERON
Introducing CORNEL WILDE
A Columbia Picture in TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
M-G-M's
'NATIONAL VELVET'
Mickey Rooney · Elizabeth Taylor
IN PERSON
CLIFF NAZARRO
MOLLY PICON
MARIO & FLORIA

Paramount presents
Ray Milland
IN
"MINISTRY of FEAR"
in Person
Johnny Long
and his Orchestra
LOUIS JORDAN
and his
FAMOUS TYMPANY FIVE
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett
Raymond Massey
"Woman in the Window"
AN INTERNATIONAL PICTURE
—A RKO RELEASE

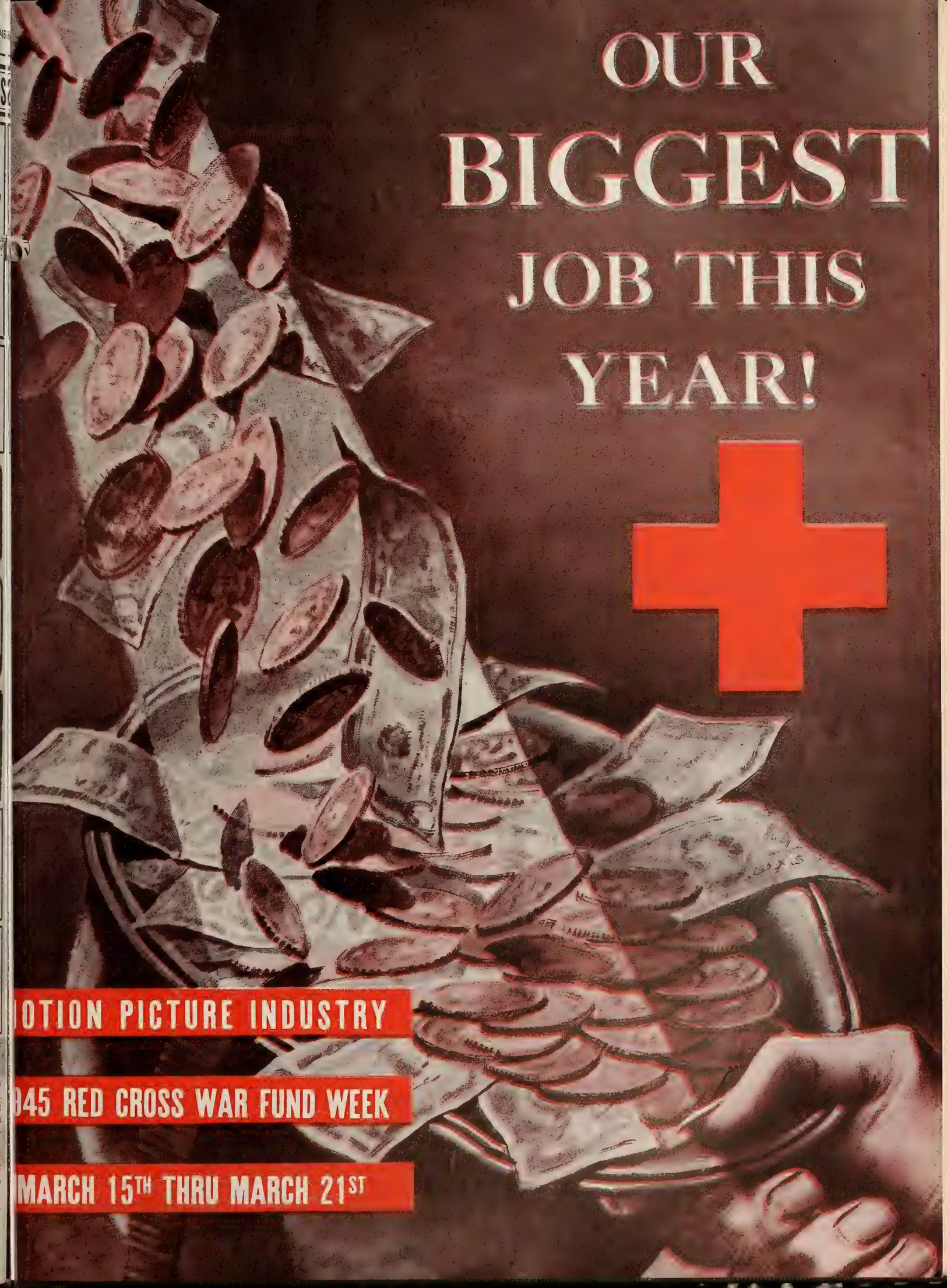
SAMUEL GOLDWYN Presents
BOB HOPE
'THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE'
in Technicolor
Continuous Doors open 9:30 A. M.
ASTOR
Broadway & 45th Street
Popular Prices
Midnight Show

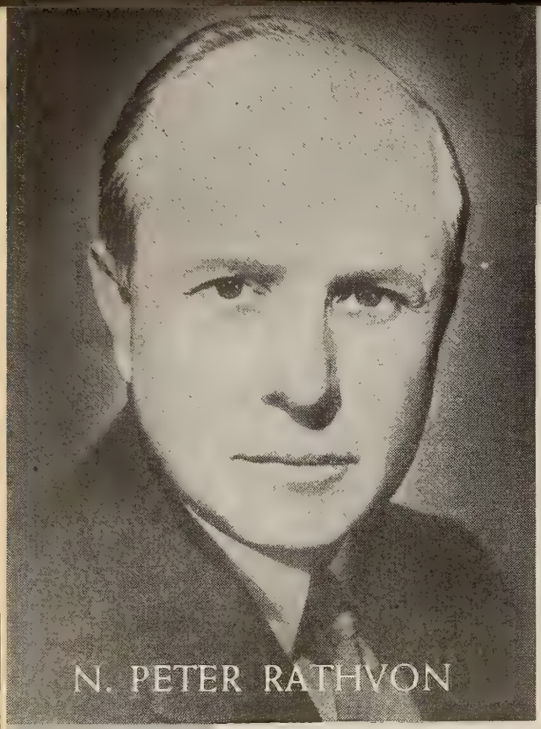
WALT DISNEY'S
'The THREE CABALLEROS'
in TECHNICOLOR
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
NOW - - - Brandt's GLOBE

SMPE Meets Tomorrow

Lt. Howard T. Souther, of the Army Signal Corps Photographic Center, Astoria, L. I., and John Maurer, of J. A. Maurer, Inc., will speak at a dinner of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers here tomorrow.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor, Published daily except Saturday, Sunday, and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Theo Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1945 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.


OUR
BIGGEST
JOB THIS
YEAR!
OTION PICTURE INDUSTRY
945 RED CROSS WAR FUND WEEK
MARCH 15TH THRU MARCH 21ST



N. PETER RATHVON

"Again the Red Cross has call

national committees have been o

to take collections in your theatre. But . . .

than ever before. No matter what the fortu

the Red Cross in 1945 will be vastly expa

the 1944 Red Cross collection must be top

"The great responsibility I feel as National

exchange area Chairman. We are confident

responsibility in your community."

N. P. Rathvon

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY 1945 RED CROSS WAR FUND W

pon our industry. Again

ized. Again you are asked

year the need is greater

of war may be, the job of

. The splendid results of

by a substantial margin.

irman is shared by every

you, too, will share this

A COLLECTION AT EVERY SHOW

TION PICTURE INDUSTRY 1945 RED CROSS FUND WEEK

MARCH 15 THRU MARCH 21

YOUR PRESS BOOK

has been sent to you by first class mail. In its pages you'll find everything you need for a great campaign —excepting your own steam! If you haven't received your copy, check with National Screen Service.

YOUR TRAILER

is a terrific heart punch. It stars **INGRID BERGMAN** and was directed by Jacques Tourneur. You get it free. Run it at every performance.

YOUR FREE POSTERS

and other display material . . . all wrapped up in a kit ready to go to work for you.

YOUR ACCESSORIES

streamer, valance, badges, slide, etc., available at low cost from National Screen.

This advertisement contributed by Columbia Pictures · Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer · Monogram Pictures · Paramount Pictures · Republic Pictures · RKO Radio Pictures · 20th Century-Fox · United Artists · Universal Pictures · Warner Bros.

WALTER WINCHELL says:

(OVER HIS NATIONAL RADIO HOOK-UP)

"One of the most exciting pictures I have ever seen. It shows the FBI, and how the FBI, with secret movie cameras, kept focused on Nazi spies working right under our noses in the United States. *Don't miss it!*"

ANOTHER SENSATIONAL TWO-REELER FROM...

THIS IS AMERICA

Produced by Frederic Ullman, Jr. • Distributed by RKO RADIO

WATCH FOR THE PRESS BOOK! USE IT! RED CROSS DRIVE — MARCH 15-21

'Co-Pilot' Bows in Macon Tomorrow

ATLANTA, Feb. 19.—The Mayors of Atlanta and Macon, Ga., an Army escort, an exhibitor group led by William K. Jenkins, head of Lucas and Jenkins circuit and civic leaders accorded Dennis Morgan, Alan Hale and Janis Paige, Warner players, an enthusiastic welcome here today. They are en route on a war bond and Army hospital tour, to Macon for the world premiere of "God Is My Co-Pilot," Wednesday.

Mayor Hartsfield, of Atlanta, commended the film industry for its contributions to the entertainment and morale of our troops abroad and our workers on the home front.

The entire proceeds of the 10 dollar premiere of "Co-Pilot" will go to Army Air Forces Aid Society. Atlanta newspapers have featured daily stories of the premiere in Macon. Warner representatives present included Mort Blumenstock of the home office, Southern district manager Ralph McCoy and branch manager Henry G. Krumm.

In Macon, there will be a two-day celebration that will start with a gasless parade to the City Hall and after visits by the Warner players to Army camps and hospital, the premiere will be capped by a Junior League grand ball in the civic auditorium and two Coast-to-Coast broadcasts.

Scott in Macon for 'Co-Pilot' Opening

MACON, Ga., Feb. 19.—Col. Robert L. Scott, author of "God Is My Co-Pilot," which will have its world premiere at the Grand Theatre Wednesday night, will arrive here tomorrow with his wife and daughter to take part in premiere activities.

Col. Scott will appear as honor guest at a Junior League ball, along with Mrs. Sidney McNair, League president, and Major General Thomas G. Hearn, commanding officer of nearby Camp Wheeler and Scott's former commander in the CBI theatre of war. Also in Macon for the premiere is Major 'Dallas' Clinger, who flew with Scott in China.

Equitable Life Gets Loew's Pension Plan

Loew's has completed arrangements with Equitable Life Assurance Society for that company to underwrite and carry its employee pension and retirement plan which was instituted last year.

Arrangements are now being worked out to compute the premium for the second year, due sometime in March.

Royal Setting NBC Plans

John F. Royal, National Broadcasting vice-president in charge of television, left New York for Hollywood yesterday for a three-week trip to develop the network's future television plans on the West Coast. He will address the Advertising Club of San Francisco on television March 7.

Industry 'Kick-Off' for Red Cross Drive Today

(*Continued from page* 1)

nard M. Kamber, assistants to the distributor chairman; Henderson M. Richey, meeting arrangements; William C. Michel, corporate gifts; Herman Robbins, trailers and accessories.

With industry leaders, theatre managers, exhibitors, sales managers, company executives, Red Cross and press representatives present, today's meeting will open with the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" by Lucy Monroe, followed by an invocation delivered by Capt. Edward T. Sandrow, USA. Included on the program will be the screening of the special Red Cross trailer.

Mayer Address

High point of the breakfast-meeting will be the principal address by Arthur L. Mayer, deputy commissioner of the Red Cross in the Pacific Area, who was recently recalled to the United States from a tour of the Pacific War areas at the request of Rathvon, so that he might aid the industry in its drive. Mayer flew 10,000 miles from Saipan to bring an eye-witness account of the job the Red Cross is doing in the South Pacific.

Sharing the speaker's platform will be members of the national committee, Colby M. Chester, chairman of the national Red Cross War Fund, and Walter L. (Red) Barber, Greater New York chairman.

Immediately following the breakfast, the nine teams of industry leaders who will highlight the series of meetings to be held in the key cities of the nine exchange areas will leave on their individual itineraries.

Scheduled to be present at today's meeting, on the dais, are: Rathvon, George J. Schaefer, Martin Smith, Chester, Barber, James Sauter, Miss Monroe, Sam Rinzler, Charles Reagan, Major Thompson, Bamberger, Mandel, McCormick, Spyros Skouras, Joseph Bernhard, Paul Moss, Harry Ross, Robbins, John J. O'Connor, Harry Lowenstein, Milton Russell, Henry Randell, Fred Schwartz, Edward Bell, Harry Brandt, S. H. Fabian, Mayer, David Weinstock, Richey, W. F. Rodgers, Brilant, Schnitzer, Carl Leserman, William Scully, Abe Montague, Robert Mochrie, Charles C. Moskowitz, Barney Balaban, Adolf Zukor, Michel, William White, Brecher, Frank Damis, Max Cohen, Herman Gluckman, Ben Kalmenson, Kamber and Neil Agnew.

Arrangements for today's breakfast were made by David Weinstock. Rodgers will be master of ceremonies.

Connors, O'Donnell in Okla. Red Cross Talk

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 19.—Tom Connors, vice-president and general sales manager of 20th Century-Fox, and R. J. O'Donnell, National Variety Club chief barker, will share a meeting of distributor representatives and local exhibitors, preparatory to the Red Cross campaign, on Saturday.

The two will be principal speakers at a luncheon called by Marion Osborne, distributor chairman, and L. C. Griffith, exhibitor chairman of the Oklahoma War Activities committee. C. B. Akers, exhibitor co-chairman, will preside.

Slater and Dunphy at WE Red Cross Rally

Sports announcers Bill Slater and Don Dunphy will be guest speakers at a Red Cross rally of Western Electric employees, sponsored by the labor-management war production committee's special Red Cross committee at the company's tube shop, here, today.

Govt. Files Rebuttal Schine Suit Briefs

BUFFALO, Feb. 19.—The Government today filed its overdue briefs in the Schine case here. Briefs were originally due Feb. 7, but preparation of the consent decree New York case occupied so much of the Department of Justice's time, that it was delayed. The briefs are a rebuttal to the Schine briefs, which declared that the Government had not proved its charges of monopoly against the circuit.

Next move will be the setting of a date for a hearing before Federal Judge John Knight, trial jurist here, who will listen to oral argument on both sides. The court will then make its decision, based on the trial evidence, briefs, counter-briefs and oral arguments. The hearing will in all probability come up before the end of the month, so that a final decision in March is likely.

'Velvet' During Easter

M-G-M will release "National Velvet" nationally as its Easter week attraction. "Meet Me in St. Louis" will be the release for the Metropolitan circuit during Easter.

Tugend Is Named Ginsberg Associate

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 19.—Harry Tugend, Paramount producer-writer, has been appointed to succeed Frank Butler as production associate to Henry Ginsberg, general manager in charge of studio operations. Butler, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY today, is taking an extended leave of absence on the advice of his physician.

Tugend has written many screen plays beginning with "The Littlest Rebel" and "Thanks a Million" in 1935 and including "Star Spangled Rhythm" and "Let's Face It" in recent years. Among his productions have been "True to Life" and "Practically Yours."

Loew's Stockholders To Vote Share Split

Stockholders of Loew's, Inc., will be asked to vote on a split of the common stock whereby they would receive three new shares of common for each one presently held, at their annual meeting here on March 29.

Other business on the agenda, besides routine matters, is expected to be approval of new service contracts for top Loew executives.

'Look' 1944 Award to Crosby, Hayworth

Look Magazine's 1944 motion picture achievement awards will be made tonight by Bob Hope over his national radio program, heard locally on WEAF from 10 to 10:30 p.m. The awards, for outstanding performances in the fields of film acting, writing, directing, producing and photography, go to Bing Crosby, for "Going My Way;" Hita Hayworth, for "Cover Girl;" Leo McCarey, for writing and directing "Going My Way;" Darryl F. Zanuck, for producing "Wilson;" Walt Disney, for his pioneering in the industry; Shirley Temple, for being the 'most promising newcomer,' and for her work in "Since You Went Away;" Margaret O'Brien, a child actress award, for her 10 films over the past two years; and Leon Shamroy, for his photography in "Wilson."

Look's selections of the year's five best pictures were: "Going My Way," for comedy-drama; "Cover Girl," for music and entertainment; "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," action; "Wilson," biography; "Since You Went Away," drama.

Films Now Coordinate Scattered Commands

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 19.—Films made by combat cameramen under fire and rushed to commanding generals in all theatres of war as "staff film reports" enable scattered commands to see what's happening elsewhere, Colonel E. L. Munson, chief of the Army Pictorial Service, revealed in the first report on this type of service at a luncheon at the Beverly Hills Hotel today, sponsored by the Public Information Committee.

"Sensational shots of German buzz-bombs in newsreels were clips from these official pictures," Munson said, adding that cameramen often parachute into battle areas to obtain pictures for use in plotting further operations.

Major John W. Hubbell, in charge of the Army Overseas Motion Picture Service and co-guest at the luncheon said, "The morale and therapeutic value of Hollywood movies can hardly be over-estimated." Hubbell said, the soldiers now seeing 125 to 150 pictures yearly, or twice the average seen at home, will account for increased theatere attendance after the war.

Misrepresent Air Systems An Offense

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 19.—Misrepresentation in the sale or installation of air conditioning systems or equipment would be made a misdemeanor under a bill introduced by Senator John V. Downey, Democrat, Jackson Heights. It would affect sales or installations in theatres as well as other types of buildings.

Philco Gets 18th 'E'

The Philadelphia plants of Philco Corp., and the Simplex Radio Division of Philco in Sandusky, Ohio, have just received the 17th and 18th Army-Navy 'E' Awards, made to the company, in recognition of war production records.

Come an' get 'em from

WATCH FOR THE PRESS BOOK! USE IT!
RED CROSS DRIVE — MARCH 15-21

Mediation Ended on SOPEG Contract

(Continued from page 1)

the long contract, wage and job classification dispute involving over 2,000 'white collar' workers in home offices.

At a meeting of the SOPEG at the Fraternal Clubhouse here last night the membership authorized its negotiating committee to act to 'freeze' any merit wage increases which the companies might seek to grant during continuation of the dispute which is now expected to go to the War Labor Board. The action was taken to preclude unilaterial action on the part of the companies which would possibly lead to discriminatory practices, a Guild spokesman pointed out.

Actual 'freezing,' which involves the Guild's withdrawing its consent to the companies' use of their merit fund plans set up under WLB general order No. 31, will not be taken until Lewis Merrill, president of United Office and Professional Workers of America, Local No. 1 of which SOPEG is a unit, has had an opportunity to hold discussions with industry representatives. The membership at the meeting last night approved this procedure.

Should the dispute now go to the War Labor Board it is indicated that the companies involved will find themselves unable to make any further merit wage increases for an indefinite period.

Minn. Royalty Case Is Won by Ascap

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 19.—Federal Judge Gunner Nordbye has signed decrees here directing Amusement Association Co. to pay $2,000 in license fees to ASCAP, and ordered Harry Dickerman Theatres to pay $500 fees after finding that defendants in the action brought by ASCAP had failed to show that the society is a monopoly.

ASCAP had sued for performing license fees on compositions of its members used in theatres operated by the two and by the Berger Circuit. Defendants contended that in assigning rights to their compositions to motion picture producers, ASCAP members did not have the right to collect another fee from theatres. Louis D. Frohlich of Schwartz & Frohlich, ASCAP counsel in New York, represented the society.

Watch
U. A. releases
bearing
G.C.F.
Presents

Two Holidays Help Grosses At New York First Runs

(Continued from page 1)

weeks, while the Roxy, with "Hangover Square" and a stage show featuring Milton Berle, and Radio City Music Hall, with "A Song to Remember" are all drawing excellently.

An outstanding $40,000 is expected for the second week of "The Princess" at the Astor, following an initial record-breaking week of more than $45,000. The theatre is getting a quick turnover, with $1.40 admission prices prevailing on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, instead of the usual $1.20 top. A heavy $31,000 is expected for the fourth week of "The Woman in the Window" at the Palace and a big $32,000 is indicated for a third week of "Caballeros" at the Globe. All three films will continue indefinitely.

"A Song to Remember" will bring a strong $111,000 for its fourth week at the Music Hall; it will continue, with the theatre opening at 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. "Hangover Square" will draw a big $83,000 for a second week at the Roxy but will hold for only one more week due to prior commitments; "A Tree Grows in Booklyn" will follow.

"Ministry of Fear," with a stage bill featuring Johnny Long and his band, at the Paramount, is expected to bring a profitable $60,000 for its second week; it will go for a third and final week before making way for "Bring on the Girls." "Objective Burma" and a stage show featuring Artie Shaw and his band are continuing to do sturdy business at the Strand, with $55,000 expected for a fourth week; the combination will continue. Because of a prior commitment, Artie Shaw and his band will bow out March 1.

"The Keys of the Kingdom" is continuing to draw at the Rivoli, with $30,000 expected for the eighth week. "Roughly Speaking" is doing moderate business at the Hollywood," $19,000 is expected for the third week.

The Rialto expects a big $14,000 for the first week of "Frisco Sal"; the film will hold; the fifth week of "The Fighting Lady" at the Victoria will bring a handsome $18,500. "Mr. Emmanuel" is holding up splendidly at the Gotham and $12,000 is expected for its seventh week. "The Chicago Kid" is leading the Republic to a fair $5,000 for its second and final week; "The Big Bonanza" will open there Saturday.

De Mille 'Suggests' House Probe AFRA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Cecil B. DeMille has suggested to the House Committee on Un-American Activities that it might want to investigate the labor union which barred him from a $98,200-a-year radio job because he refused to pay a $1 union assessment, in a letter to Representative Karl E. Mundt, Republican, South Dakota, a member of the committee. DeMille termed the union's action "Un-American and unendurable."

DeMille's controversy with the union dates back to the last political campaign. The American Federation of Radio Artists had assessed members $1 each to fight a proposed amendment to the California constitution which it considered 'anti-union.' DeMille, a member of AFRA, charged that the assessment was political and refused to pay it.

Coast Guilds Move To Aid Servicemen

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 19.—Making simultaneous moves in behalf of returning veterans, the Screen Actors Guild and the Screen Players Union has announced provisions for assuring their members a chance for employment after their service discharge. SAG will waive for 90 days in each case its rule requiring actors to pay the Guild entrance fee or dues.

Albert DeSilvey Dies

HARRISBURG, Pa., Feb. 19.—Albert Hess DeSilvey, 54, of Wilmer and Vincent's State Theatre for 15 years, died of a heart attack at his home, Mechanicsburg, Saturday.

Eiges Makes Changes In NBC Press Staff

Several changes and additions to the NBC press department staff were announced here by Sydney H. Eiges, manager of the department. Allan Kalmus was named television editor; his duties as trade news editor have been taken over by Richard Connelly, previously in charge of publicity for station WEAF.

Marian Chapman, currently writing publicity for network shows will assume Connelly's WEAF duties. Gerald Quisenberry has been named magazine editor, succeeding Walter Schneider, resigned, and Mrs. Fredrica Montgomery has been named assistant to Quisenberry. New additions include: Leo Herschdorfer, news editor, and Marney Glavin, Milton Marshall, George Wolf and Helen Leaf as additions to the writing staff.

McCormick Renews 13 Air Promotions

RKO has renewed its contract with commentator Lyle Van for 13 weekly broadcasts over WEAF of RKO's regular news program, it was announced here yesterday by S. Barret McCormick, RKO Radio director of advertising-publicity. Renewal is for the period from March 3-May 26. This will mark the start of the third year of this 15-minute weekly program, broadcast Saturdays at 11 P. M.

Michael Martone Passes

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Feb. 19.—Michael Martone, 56, manager of the Palmer theater, Palmer, Mass., for the past eight years, died at the Wesson Memorial Hospital after a brief illness.

'Brownout' Neither Helps Nor Hurts

St. Louis, Feb. 19.—Ten day's trial of the 'brownout' has shown theatre operators that the public does not resent the new regulation, and the operators' fears of possible pickpockets and holdups have not materialized.

Also, "There has been no detrimental effect on the box office," Martin Burnett, manager of Loew's State and Loew's Orpheum, reported.

Curb Gas Heating Use in East Again

(Continued from page 1)

flow of gas and caused important war plants to close down.

The two-day period was set in the hope that by Wednesday night temperatures will have risen sufficiently to bring about a return of normal conditions, but if U. S. Weather Bureau predictions to that effect prove inaccurate the ban may be ordered continued.

As in the case of the three-day ban imposed earlier this month the OWI has notified gas companies in the area of its action and instructed them to contact all consumers who would be affected. In most instances, this was done by telephone, but in some areas the message was broadcast.

The order applies to Ohio, Western New York, Western Pennsylvania, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Officials said exhibitors in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Rochesetr will not be affected since those cities are supplied with artificial gas, but affected are Washington, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Syracuse, Utica, Binghamton and other communities where theatres heating with gas will have to close or go cold.

Adhere to 'Brownout,' Or Face Shutdown

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 19.—Theatre men were warned that strict adherence to the WPB "brownout" restrictions should be maintained not only as a patriotic duty or gesture, but for their own protection, because a strict enforcement program is about to be started by the Philadelphia Electric Co. and the WPB.

Over 7,500 violations of the "brownout" by business establishments throughout the city have already been noted, and if voluntary compliance to the order is not forthcoming, the electric company will be authorized to turn off power to offending places, according to the WPB.

James Higgins Dies

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 19.—James W. Higgins, 49, former assistant manager of the Palace, and manager of the Rialto, St. Louis, has died at Veterans' Hospital here. Higgins served as assemblyman here in 1932, and during the first World War was in the Navy. He is survived by his wife, his parents, four brothers and two sisters.

DR. GALLUP HAS GONE INTO THIS QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP CLAIMS!

"Did I hear a claim drop?"

M-G-M DOMINATES FEATURE POPULARITY

Leo has twice as many hits as any other company!

4 OUT OF FIRST 10

('A Guy Named Joe'; 'Mrs. Parkington'; 'See Here, Private Hargrove'; 'Two Girls And A Sailor')

Next Companies 2, 2, 1, 1.

10 OUT OF FIRST 22

Next Companies 5, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1.

AND ACCLAIMED BY THE NATION!

GREER GARSON

WINS PHOTOPLAY MEDAL FOR

MOST POPULAR FILM ACTRESS

21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP MGM

Watch For Press Book! Use It!
Red Cross Drive—March 15-21!

Theatres Fare Well Under NY Building Code

(Continued from page 1)

only new construction with one of the most important changes being the doubling of requirements for projection booth size. However, some controversy is expected when the committee starts to review provisions for existing theatres in about a month.

Theatre representatives on the committee have shown an outstanding willingness, it is said, to work out reasonable requirements for new structures but should any drastic changes in the code as they apply to existing theatres be demanded, it is believed that considerable delay will result while a full airing of the demands is undertaken.

The advisory committee has been meeting every two weeks with progress being made despite the highly technical job confronting the group. The next meeting will be held March 2 with a review of requirements applying to existing theatres expected to be reached by the meeting following the one on March 2.

The industry's representatives on the advisory committee include Henry Anderson, Paramount; Martin J. Tracey, Century Circuit; Theodore Junge, alternate for Harry Moskowitz, Loew's, and Glen H. Humphrey, of IATSE projectionists local No. 337.

Foreign Printing May Be Staggered

(Continued from page 1)

alternatives, it is understood. They may either forego foreign distribution of some of their product and play only the best abroad, cut down on the number of prints allocated for foreign distribution or stagger printing and releasing.

Printing for foreign distribution is done here principally, but prints for England, Australia and Sweden are made in those countries. Larger companies use some 150 prints for distribution outside of the domestic sales area. M-G-M uses about 60-65 black and white prints for foreign countries outside of England, Australia and Sweden, and some 75-85 Technicolor prints. Another 54 prints are used for England, 14 for Australia, and from five to 10 for Sweden.

Howard on USO Tour

Willie Howard, stage-screen-radio star, will head a USO-Camp Show hospital unit, playing Mid-Western hospitals from March 1 to 13. Howard will join the show at Wakeman General Hospital in Indiana, and thereafter will travel to Nicholas General Hospital, and Darnall Hospital, Kentucky, AAF Convalescent Hospital, and the AAF Regional Hospital, Ohio.

Wounded See 'Angels'

MANILA, Feb. 19.—The first American motion picture shown here since the liberation of the city was exhibited on a makeshift screen for wounded American and Filipino soldiers. "And the Angels Sing" was shown less than a mile from the Southern Manila battlefront.

Reviews

"Eadie Was a Lady"

(Columbia)

A TUNEFUL, but oft-times spotty musical, with the hackneyed yarn of the college girl from a "snooty" Boston family who makes good in burlesque, "Eadie Was a Lady" will hold its own because of the excellent singing and dancing of its star, Ann Miller, who is permitted to run the gamut.

The story concerns Miss Miller's slow but steady rise from ordinary burlesque player to a top star. Since she is attending a fashionable school, she attempts to keep her stage work a secret, but her eventual stage popularity is finally discovered at school and the college board attempts to eject her, but its president, who had seen her dance and sing, as well as Miss Miller's manager, with whom she is in love, save the day, and she winds up in a blaze of glory by "jazzing-up" the annual college Greek dance festival.

The original story and screen play by Monte Brice are wanting somewhat. Joe Besser apparently struggled with time-worn gags, and the film rises only when Miss Miller is dancing or singing, both of which she does very well. The camera work of Burnett Guffey is good, but neither producer Michel Kraike nor director Arthur Dreifuss could overcome the story handicaps. Hal McIntyre's orchestra provides a good musical background, while several good specialty numbers also help to keep the interest alive.

Running time, 67 minutes. General classification. Release date, Jan. 23.

EDWARD SMITH

"The Jade Mask"

(Monogram)

"THE JADE MASK," latest in the Charlie Chan series, neatly fulfills the rigid requirements of the murder mystery fan by frequent bloodletting that almost succeeds in dispatching Sidney Toler, as the famous detective, who winds up with no apparent outward effect on his imperturbable personality. Toler goes about his business with a detached and unruffled air, merely viewing the violent proceedings, such as bodies thudding about him, as a simple exercise in the art of detection. His son, Key Luke, and Mantan Moreland are present to supply comic relief.

George Callahan's screenplay concerns the murder of Frank Reicher, a scientist who is performing research for the Government and has made progress towards a secret formula to make wood as tough as steel. Various inhabitants of the scientist's house meet violent ends, until the murderer is revealed by Toler as Jack Ingram, a quick-change artist, who is seeking the formula. Ingram "performs" his murders with a blow-gun that shoots poisoned darts.

Director Phil Rosen has kept the action fluid and fairly suspenseful. Producer is James S. Burkett. Players, in addition to the principals, include Janet Warren, Edith Evanson, Hardie Albright, Cyril DeLevanti and Dorothy Granger.

Running time, 66 minutes. General classification. Release date, Jan. 26.

CHARLES RYWECK

No Industry Awards For Service Films

Motion pictures made by uniformed camera men of the Army and released under the Government information service conducted by the Office of War Information and the War Activities Committee of the industry are not eligible for any of the yearly Academy awards for merit.

Several of the films, taken under fire, include "The Memphis Belle" and "The Liberation of Rome," a story of a bomber over Germany.

The Army's position is made clear in a letter from Col. Edward J. Munson, Jr., Signal Corps chief of pictorial service to William Dozier, chairman of Academy's special committee on documentary awards.

Rooney to Rooney, Inc.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 19.—Rooney, Inc., formed after Mickey Rooney's Army induction, has negotiated a contract with M-G-M for the star's screen services after his discharge, according to reports. It is understood the pact is for seven years at $5,000 weekly, with Rooney free to make his own radio deals. The studio declined comment.

Roy Rogers to Cleveland

CLEVELAND, Feb. 19.—Roy Rogers is booked to present his rodeo show here at the Arena during the week of April 21-28.

Skouras and Warner Honor Booker Bogart

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 19.—In one of the greatest tributes of its kind in local film history, 500 guests of the Variety Club honored Mrs. Betsy Bogart at the Ambassador Hotel, here, on her retirement after thirty years of continuous employment as booker on Film Row, the last 16 with the Warner exchange.

Charles Skouras, Jack L. Warner, Marco Wolf, Dave Bershon, Henry Herbel, L. J. Halper where among speakers on a program followed by entertainment featuring film players.

Stern Elected

CLEVELAND, Feb. 19.—Tony Stern, Warner Theatres' local booking manager, has been elected president of the Cleveland Warner Club, succeeding Edna Charns, who resigned to join her husband on the West Coast. Yaro Miller, Warner exchange office manager, was elected vice-president.

Mexican Union Expands

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 19.—The National Cinematographic Union has added another section, consisting of studio laboratory and 'permanent' employes. Hector Trevino is secretary-general. The new section, No. 50, is already seeking wage increases for its members.

Reagan Sees 'Bell' Best Para. Grosser

(Continued from page 1)

Paramount regional sales meeting at the Hotel Pierre here yesterday.

R. M. Gillham, Paramount advertising-publicity director, told the sales representatives that every key "Bell" engagement will be backed with a heavy advertising campaign with several hundred thousand dollars allocated for cooperative newspaper advertising. He pointed out that $1,000,000 had been spent to advertise the roadshow campaign.

William H. Erbb, Eastern division manager, presided at the session which will continue today. Attending in addition to home office executives are district manager A. M. Kane, Boston, branch managers, salesmen and head bookers of New York, Boston, Buffalo, New Haven and Albany, plus Boston and Buffalo district exploitation representatives.

Average 21 Years

Stressing that Paramount provides "unlimited opportunities for advancement through promotions for merit," Erbb disclosed that the average length of service of the 22 field men present at the meeting was 21 years. The oldest employe in point of service is Edward Bradley, Boston salesman, who has been with Paramount for 27 years. Max Mendel, New York salesman, who achieved the distribution department's 'One Hundred Per Cent Club,' was presented by Reagan with a gold button signifying his achievement and a $3,000 life insurance policy as a gift of the company.

Both Reagan and Erbb reviewed sales progress, revealing that a recapitulation of engagements of "Here Come the Waves" shows that it is grossing better than 20 per cent more than "The Story of Dr. Wassell."

Clande Lee, director of public relations, discussed customer relations and sales promotion, and urged continued participation by the sales force in the industry's War Activities Committee program. "Distribution is now playing an indispensible part in this tremendous war effort," Lee said. "Every theatre has become the focal point of home front activity," he added.

'Caballeros' Returns To Veterans' Fund

BOSTON, Feb. 19.—The War Veterans Fund will receive proceeds of tomorrow night's preview of Walt Disney's RKO production "The Three Caballeros" at the Majestic Theatre. The preview, sponsored by Hearst, will be a reserved seat showing, precedes the regular Boston engagement at the Majestic starting Wednesday.

Master-of-ceremonies will be Peter Donald of the "Guess Who" radio show.

Barry Atlanta Manager

ATLANTA, Feb. 19.—Frank Barry, formerly auditor for Columbia, and later salesman in the Florida territory, has been appointed sales manager of the branch here.

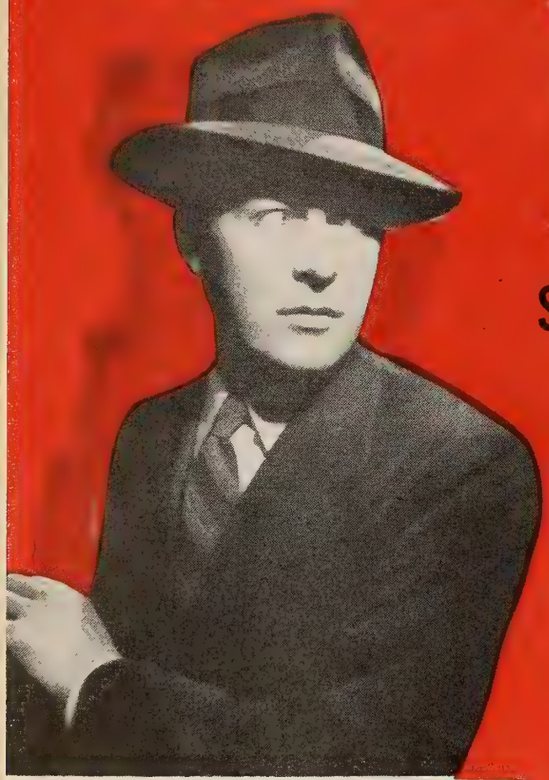
Everybody's Making Money with Murder Mysteries This Season

and *PARAMOUNT*

has the Fourth
Sensational Success
in the Current Cycle
of Suspense Thrillers
that started with
"Double Indemnity".....

SIGN THAT PLEDGE CARD!
RED CROSS DRIVE—MARCH 15-21

"Ministry Of Fear"



STARTS SENSATIONALLY AT NEW YORK PARAMOUNT

With Better-Than-"Love-a-Soldier" Business and These Superlative Reviews

"All you devotees of mystery and spy stories, hurry right around to the Paramount . . . Ingenious, tense spy story . . . Full of turbulent, headlong drama."
—N. Y. World-Telegram

"Plant yourself well in a firm seat and keep your overcoat on when you see this thriller . . . As eerie a package of mystery as has come along in quite a while . . . A thoroughly captivating tale . . . chilling . . . unusual!" —N. Y. Times

"A corker . . . Never misses . . . A sure bet for any one who likes his blood curdled . . . As good as they come!" —N. Y. Sun

"Class 'A' Thriller . . . Improved type of adult entertainment . . . Far above average!" —N. Y. Mirror

"Perfect thriller . . . Done so well it can't escape popularity." —Journal of Commerce

Starring

Ray Milland

with

MARJORIE REYNOLDS

Famous in "Holiday Inn"
Coming in "Bring On The Girls"

and Carl Esmond • Hillary Brooke
Percy Waram

Directed by

FRITZ LANG

"One of the wisest hands in these manhunt dramas." — *Says N. Y. Telegram*

Screen Play by Seton I. Miller
From the Novel by Graham Greene,

DAN DURYEA

"Who is rapidly becoming one of Hollywood's top Villains."—*Says N.Y. Journal*

Paramount

IS GREAT

at making **GREAT** books
into **GREAT** pictures

Like "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "Frenchman's Creek," "And Now Tomorrow" and "Ministry of Fear"

Veteran Univ. News Cameramen Feted

Earle Crotchett and Irving Smith, Universal Newsreel cameramen who have just returned from the Philippines, were guests of honor at a luncheon given by the company at the Hampshire House yesterday. Crotchett has been in the South Pacific for three years and Smith has been at overseas war fronts, from Africa and Italy to the Southwest Pacific, for two and one-half years.

In the Pacific area they were on continuous service longer than any other civilian cameramen, more than 20 others having come and gone on assignments in that area during their stay. They participated in the Leyte and Mindoro landing in the Philippines.

Among those who attended the luncheon, in addition to representatives of the industry and metropolitan press, were: Charles D. Prutzman, Maurice Bergman, F. J. A. McCarthy, David Levy, James Jordan, Hank Linet, Al Horwits, Sam Machnovitch, Phil Laufer and Charles Moss.

2 New Home-Front Films Through WAC

Two new 10-minute subjects scheduled for March release to theatres were announced by the War Activities Committee here. Both deal with home-front problems. The first, "The Story With Two Endings," tells the story of 'runaway prices' after the World War I Armistice, and gives advice on methods of combating this after the end of the present war. Picture was made by, and will be released through, 20th Century-Fox, beginning March 1.

"The Enemy Strikes" is a War Department subject which includes captured German film. It details the effects of complacency at home prior to Runstedt's break-through in Europe, and reminds Americans that our fighting men pay for slowing down of war production in dead, wounded and missing. Universal will distribute for the WAC, release date March 15.

WHOM to Cover Films

A review of the arts with each critic reviewing top attractions of the week in his particular field in addition to giving news and recommendations of the week, will be an hour-long Sunday feature on New York station, WHOM with Eileen Creelman of the *New York Sun* covering films and Ben Gross of the *New York Daily News* covering radio, in addition to others.

Watch U. A. releases bearing G.C.F. Presents

Reviews

"The Unseen"

(Paramount)

AS a straight murder-thriller, the addicts may find this one a bit disappointing, but as a vehicle for two fascinating child characters, remarkably played by Richard Lyon and Nona Griffith, they should find it well redeemed from the humdrum.

The youngsters live with their widowed father, Joel McCrea, in a big house abutting a bigger house, which has been boarded up for years. From time to time, a light strangely moves through the walls from one abode to the other, and anybody who gets too curious about this dies a violent death. Curiosity, gradually growing into terror, grips Gail Russell after she takes a job here as governess and stumbles into an odd lot of juvenile collaboration. The little boy, it seems, has a way of opening the front door at night to help the prowler move in and out, and he has twisted the little girl's arm so often that she tries, although blunderingly, to keep his secret.

The father pays scant attention to what's going on, but Herbert Marshall, physician and friend, takes an interest, as do Phyllis Brooks, former governess, and Isobel Elsom, who owns the closed mansion. Finally the police, represented by Tom Tully, get in on it, too, and the plot explodes with a creeping chase through the cellars and a couple of farewell shootings.

Hagar Wilde and Raymond Chandler wrote the screen play from Wilde's and Ken Englund's adaptation of Ethel Lina White's novel. Their work, pointing up the mystery by leaving out the clues, creates great suspense but somewhat sacrifices long-run satisfaction. Lewis Allen directed—capably throughout—and brilliantly when handling the children. John Houseman was associate producer.

Running time, 81 minutes. General classification. Release in block No. 4.

TOM LOY

"A Song for Miss Julie"

(Republic)

"A SONG for Miss Julie" is a mildly diverting fare, bolstered somewhat by several fair production numbers and songs. Its sole distinction is that it serves to introduce Alicia Markova and Anton Dolin, famous ballet dancers, to the screen, and they are shown in a charming little cameo of the ballet that may lure devotees of that art.

Rowland Leigh's screenplay, derived from Michael Foster's original story, as adapted by Leighton K. Brill, concerns the antics of two Broadway playwright's rummaging around in Louisiana's bayou country in an attempt to unearth the juicy details of the life of a famous ballader of another day from his present descendants, Elisabeth Risdon and Jane Farrar, her daughter. They secure a pallid description of the departed romanticist's past until they discover Charyl Walker, another descendant, who is more willing to talk. They whip the show into shape and eventually it arrives on Broadway where it is a huge success.

Shirley Ross, wife of Barton Hepburn, one of the playwrights, has a song tailored to her style in "Bayou Calls," by Del Cleveland and Marla Shelton, while Miss Walker renders "I Love to Remember," by Lou Herscher and Miss Shelton, in appropriate mood. "Sweet Sunday" and "It Could Have Happened Before," also by Herscher and Shelton, complete the score. Roger Clark is good as the other writer, while Lillian Randolph, Peter Garey, Rene Riano, Harry Crocker are others in the cast. The Robertos dance with much energy. William Rowland and Carley Harriman were co-producers; Rowland also directed.

Running time, 69 minutes. General classification. Released Feb. 19.

C. R.

"The Chicago Kid"

(Republic)

REPUBLIC has taken a stock gangster theme and attempted to give it some currency by employing the device of having Government frozen commodities, instead of liquor, hijacked. Unfortunately, the vitality that should be the mark of this type of film, is lacking, due, principally, to an uninspired screenplay, by Jack Townley.

Donald Barry ingratiates himself with both Otto Kruger, who, Barry believes, framed his now dead father, and with Kruger's daughter, Lynne Roberts, to obtain revenge. At the same time, using information gained in Kruger's employ, he becomes an accomplice of a gang looting warehouses of frozen commodities. Although he discovers that his father was really guilty, Barry decides to stay with the gang. When the mob falls out, inevitably, there is a brief spurt of action, and Barry is killed defending Miss Roberts' brother, Henry Daniels.

Kruger is good as the businessman; Barry, performing as a sort of latter-day Cagney, is competent. Tom Powers, Chick Chandler, Joseph Crehan, Jay Novello, Paul Harvey, Addison Richards and Kenne Duncan complete the cast. Frank McDonald directed; Eddy White was associate producer. Albert Beich contributed additional dialogue.

Running time, 68 minutes. General classification. No release date set.

C. R.

Continue Video Shows

RKO Television Corp. will continue to produce a weekly series of television programs for R. H. Macy for an additional 19 weeks, following an initial seven-week period of experimental programs.

ITOA Invites Skouras

The Independent Theatre Owners Association, here, has invited Spyros Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president, to its next meeting on March 1 at the Hotel Astor, for a "frank discussion" of industry problems.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Feb. 19

JOHN PATRICK'S play, "The Hasty Heart," has been purchased by Warners. John Dall will have the top male lead in the film. . . . Tom Conway and Audrey Long have been selected for leading roles in RKO's romantic comedy, "The Lie Detector." . . . Andrew Stone is planning to form a stock company of young players experienced in film and television work.

•

Alfred Santell, until now a director, has been signed as a producer-director by Republic and will handle "Mexicana," starring Tito Guizar, as his first production. Also appearing in this film will be Constance Moore, singing star of screen, stage and radio, who has been placed under a long-term contract by the studio.

•

"Manhattan Miracle," original melodrama by Earl Felton, has been purchased by RKO . . . Dennis Morgan has been given a new contract by Warners . . . Lee Patrick, Cora Witherspoon and Charles Evans have been signed for the Columbia comedy, "Over 21" . . . Peggy Knudsen, recently signed by Warners, will make her screen debut in "Shadow of a Woman," mystery-drama based on the novel by Virginia Perdue.

•

Katherine McLeod has been assigned an important role in M-G-M's current "The Harvey Girls." . . . Leonard Mudie, Mary Gordon, Barbara Woodell and Clarence Muse have been added to the cast of "Divorce," which Kay Francis and Jeffrey Bernerd are producing for Monogram. . . . Dane Clark has been chosen for the second male lead in "Stolen Life," now in work at Warners.

•

Alan Ladd, Veronica Lake and William Bendix will head the cast of "The Blue Dahlia," Raymond Chandler's first original for the screen, which George Marshall will direct and John Houseman will produce for Paramount. . . . Jeanne Crain will have an important role in 20th Century-Fox's "Leave Her to Heaven."

•

Deanna Durbin's next for Universal will be "Katherine the Last," in which she will play a stage-struck girl, and Charles Laughton, her co-star, a famous actor . . . Republic has signed Constance Moore to a three-year contract. She will first appear opposite Tito Guizar in "Mexicana." . . . RKO has purchased "Manhattan Miracle," original melodrama by Earl Felton. Ben Stoloff will produce.

•

Paramount producers Pine and Thomas plan to make a picture titled "Tokio Rose," based on the career of the feminine commentator who broadcasts from a Japanese radio station. . . . James Dunne has been selected for the male lead in the forthcoming 20th Century-Fox film, "Three Little Girls in Blue."

•

Fred Brady has been signed by Columbia for the lead opposite Marguerite Chapman in "Song of Broadway." . . . Peggy Ryan is to star in Universal's "On Stage, Everybody."

WARNERS BLAST IT INSIDE OUT

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 36 NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1945 TEN CENTS

Loew 1944 Net Income Rises to $14,517,256

Receipts, Rentals, Film Sales Are $160,604,310

Net income of Loew's, Inc., and subsidiaries for the year ended Aug. 31, 1944, after provision for depreciation and taxes, was $14,517,256, equivalent to $8.61 a share on 1,685,109 shares of common, compared with $8.01 a share on 1,675,213 shares, on a net of $13,422,853 in 1943, the annual report to stockholders today will show.

As reported in *Motion Picture Daily* yesterday, a special meeting of the stockholders has been called for March 29 to vote upon the recommendation of Loew's board of directors to

(*Continued on page* 17)

Kulick Heads PRC Sales

Leon Fromkess, PRC president, now visiting the New York office of the company, from Hollywood, yesterday appointed Bert Kulick, recently placed on inactive duty as Lieut. Commander in the Navy, as general manager of domestic distribution. He also announced the appointment of Morris Safier, formerly a sales executive of Warners and recently Midwest division manager of United Artists, as Western division sales manager.

Leo J. McCarthy, who has been general sales manager of the organization for the past year, will remain

(*Continued on page* 14)

Seek to Raise WPB 285 Print Limit

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Subsequent-run exhibitor interests are still dissatisfied with the 285-print limitation imposed by the War Production Board in its first-quarter raw stock allocations and are continuing their efforts to secure reconsideration, it was learned here today.

The Office of Civilian Requirements was asked this week by Si Fabian, chairman of the theatres division of the War Activities Commit-

(*Continued on page* 11)

WB Net Increases To $2,350,000; Directors Reelected

WILMINGTON, Feb. 20.—Warner Bros. Pictures and subsidiaries netted, after taxes, approximately $2,350,000 for the quarter ended Nov. 25, 1944, compared with a net of $1,981,730 for the same period in 1943, according to preliminary figures disclosed here today at the company's annual stockholders' meeting. This is equivalent to 63 cents per share on common stock outstanding, compared with 53 cents per share for the corresponding period a year ago.

Warner officials also reported a net

(*Continued on page* 14)

Set for Red Cross, Rathvon Tells Rally

Preparations for the industry's Red Cross War Fund Week, March 15-21, "are complete in every detail," N. Peter Rathvon, national industry drive chairman, told 1,300 exhibitors, distributor and other film representatives from the New York-New Jersey areas at a 'kick-off' breakfast at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here yesterday. First of 32 key-city rallies, it was addressed also by Charles M. Reagan, War Activities Committee

(*Continued on page* 11)

Highlights on U.S. Theatre Curfew

While theatre operators throughout the nation moved quickly and uniformly to comply with War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes's request for midnight closings of all places of amusement starting next Monday, it was revealed in Washington that, instead of the curfew, Government officials had been considering ordering places of amusement to close one day a week to achieve conservation of fuel, manpower and transportation facilities.

Other highlights of the curfew request from Washington:

More than 200 theatres throughout the country will be obliged to forego regularly scheduled late shows, more than 100 of them in the New York area.

Rearranged shorter schedules may curtail the playing of double features, some short subjects and stage shows in a few of the affected houses.

Weekly receipts will be adversely affected in houses which have been operating after midnight.

No protests against the curfew have been made by theatre operators.

Curfew Takes Place of One Day a Week Closing

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Every theatre in the country, regardless of location, method of heating or source of electric power, will be required to close at midnight, effective next Monday, War Mobilization officials declared today in commenting on the "request" issued last night by Director James F. Byrnes.

Although only a year or so ago the Office of Civilian Requirements called on exhibitors in war-production centers to run late shows for the benefit of night workers, OWM officials said "conditions have changed" and it will not be possible to make any exceptions.

They explained that the Byrnes directive is aimed at the conservation not only of coal but of transportation, manpower and "in other ways."

In response to direct questions as to the application of the order in spe-

(*Continued on page* 19)

Annual QP Awards Judging Monday

The 11th annual Quigley Showmanship Awards judging will take place on Monday, in the Hotel Astor here, followed by a luncheon at which Martin Quigley will be host to executives from exhibition, distribution and advertising.

Efforts of theatremen across the country, which have been relayed to the *Managers' Round Table* of *Motion Picture Herald* for the past year, for consideration in the Annual Quigley Awards will be judged together with material submitted for the War Showmanship Award.

Theatres Set To Comply on Curfew Hour

Revenue Loss Indicated; May Hit Shorts, Duals

Circuit executives here are not too pessimistic over the midnight curfew for theatres and other places of entertainment requested by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes to save fuel, and to become effective next Monday, a roundup by MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday disclosed.

With the expectation that the public will cooperate by coming to the theatres within the allotted hours of operation, circuit spokesmen do not anticipate any widespread drop in box office receipts when new schedules go

(*Continued on page* 19)

Kusell, Smith To Vanguard

Neil Agnew, vice-president of Vanguard Films, yesterday announced two new appointments and a new sales setup for the company, naming Milton Kusell, former New York district manager of Paramount, as Eastern supervisor of sales, and Cresson Smith, former sales executive long identified in executive capacities with United Artists and more recently with RKO, as West Coast supervisor of sales,

(*Continued on page* 14)

Decorators Win WLB Verdict Over IATSE

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20.—The long jurisdictional dispute between Screen Set Decorators' local No. 1421 and the IATSE, which last Fall caused a studio walkout, appeared ended today when the War Labor Board arbi-

(*Continued on page* 17)

Six Reviews Today

Reviews of "God Is My Co-Pilot," "High Powered" appear on page 14; "Pan-Americana," "Strange Illusion," "Docks of New York," "Great Stagecoach Robbery," page 18.

Personal Mention

NATE SPINGOLD, Columbia Pictures vice-president, will leave Hollywood Friday for New York.

•

DR. JAMES T. SHOTWELL, State department consultant, advising on OWI-WAC shorts, will leave today for San Francisco, and then New York.

•

SAM DEMBOW, Golden Productions head, is en route to New York from California and plans to stop off in Chicago.

•

ROBERT JACKSON, formerly of the M-G-M exchange in Buffalo, is home on a furlough after nearly two years in the South Pacific.

•

SGT. CARL E. ENDE, formerly of Shea's Buffalo Theatre, a veteran of four years in the Pacific war zone, is in Buffalo on a 30-day furlough.

•

JOSEPH S. HUMMEL, vice-president of Warners International Corp., is completing plans for a trip to London in the near future.

•

SAMUEL GOLDWYN has arrived in London after a two-day delay in Iceland. He is on a Government mission.

•

HYMAN J. GLICK, Republic comptroller-treasurer, left Hollywood for New York yesterday on the Super-chief.

•

IRVING MACK, head of Filmack Trailer Co., Chicago, is in New York on business.

•

CHARLES C. MOSKOWITZ, Loew's vice-president, yesterday celebrated a birthday.

ODT Reverses Stand On Meeting Totals

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The Office of Defense Transportation today announced it would not require permits for films or other meetings or conventions which drew an out-of-town attendance of 50 or less in addition to local attendance. This is a reversal of ODT policy which was to adhere strictly to the rule of 50, frowning on attendance over that mark, even though only a handful of the total attendance was from out-of-town.

"The task of reviewing applications which have been pouring into the office of the War Committee on Conventions has become so burdensome, the committee has decided that conventions and meetings which have an out-of-town attendance of 50 or less, in addition to local attendance, will not require permits," Col. J. Monroe Johnson, ODT head stated.

Sussman Replaces Strauss

BUFFALO, Feb. 20.—John Strauss, salesman for Warners, has resigned to go to Hollywood; George Sussman, former 20th-Fox salesman, succeeds.

No Paper Tomorrow

***Motion Picture Daily* will not be published tomorrow, Feb. 22, Washington's Birthday and a legal holiday.**

All Home Offices Closed Tomorrow

The industry here will virtually shut down tight tomorrow, Washington's Birthday and a legal holiday, with all home offices and practically all others, including the MPPDA closing.

Both neighborhood and downtown theatres expect boom business over the four-day weekend, with schools closed on Friday, in addition to the Thursday, to aid the short fuel situation.

Cinema Lodge Will Honor Harry Brandt

Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith, here, will honor Harry Brandt, New York independent exhibitor and national chairman of the industry's participation in the recent Sixth War Loan drive, at a joint open meeting with the recently-formed Cinema Ladies' Auxiliary of B'nai B'rith, in Pythian Temple on Tuesday evening, Feb. 27.

Brandt will be presented with the Cinema 'Honor Scroll' by S. H. Fabian, WAC theatres division chairman. Two previous recipients of the scroll are Barney Balaban and Samuel Rinzler.

The Cinema Auxiliary will be formally instituted into Cinema Lodge at the meeting and officers installed, including: Mrs. Ann G. Blackman, president; Mrs. Bessie Lefkowitz, vice-president; Miss Bess Rosenthal, treasurer; Mrs. Ethel R. Greenfield, recording secretary. Membership in the Auxiliary is open to women in the film and allied entertainment industries, as well as to wives and members of the families of Cinema members.

Balaban Gives 'Bill Of Rights' to U.S.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Barney Balaban, Paramount president, today will present one of the original copies of the American Bill of Rights to the Library of Congress. The Bill was drawn in September, 1789, and was purchased by Balaban in 1943, for donation to the Library. Byron Price, Director of Censorship on "The Bill of Rights in Wartime," will accept the presentation on behalf of the Library. Postmaster General Frank C. Walker, and Supreme Court Justices Robert H. Jackson and Felix Frankfurter will be among the officials present.

The document is one of the 13 copies submitted by Congress to each of the original States. It has the signature of Frederick Muhlenberg, then Speaker of the House; John Adams, vice-president; Sam A. Otis, Secretary of the Senate and John Berkley, Clerk of the House. Berkley was also the first Librarian of Congress, having been appointed by Jefferson in 1802.

RKO's 'America' and 'This Week' in Tieup

Frederic Ullman, Jr., producer of RKO's "This Is America" short subject series, and William I. Nichols and Jerry Mason, respectively editor and executive editor of *This Week* magazine, have arranged for editorial collaboration between the two media. It was said that this marks the first time that the editorial departments of an independent magazine and a short subject producer will work together in bringing information and current history to the public, although shorts have been produced directly by publishing interests.

The editors of the magazine believe that this step will be a great advance in the furtherance of education, culture and entertainment via mass communication.

This Week has a circulation of about 6,500,000; "This Is America" appears in 8,000 domestic and 400 foreign theatres.

First film from the joint efforts of the two media is "On Guard," story of the FBI and featuring J. Edgar Hoover. The picture, now beginning its release, will be tied in with the March 11 issue of *This Week*, which will carry a two-page spread on FBI activities. Next release under the plan will be "Honorable Discharge," story on the "G.I. Bill of Rights." The collaboration merging the editorial policies of the two media was arranged through Richard Condon, Inc., public relations counselors to RKO-Pathe and editorial consultant to *This Week*.

Atlas Film Stocks Total $13,140,398

Atlas Corp., investment company, headed by Floyd Odlum, held the following film securities in its portfolio as of last Dec. 31, according to its report for 1944, released here yesterday: 30,850 shares of Walt Disney Productions' six per cent cumulative convertible preferred, listed at $478,175; 1,329,020 shares of RKO common, listed at $12,293,435; 327,812 shares of RKO common option warrants, $368,788; also 31,500 shares of Columbia Broadcasting "A" common, $1,106,437, and 3,500 shares of CBS "B" common, $122,500.

Indicated assets value of the common stock of Atlas Corp. at the end of 1944 was approximately $21.98 a share, an increase of $2.97 over the corresponding figure for the preceding year. The report listed the corporation's total assets as $69,624,518 on last Dec. 31.

The increase in asset value, it was explained in an accompanying letter to shareholders from Odlum, was after dividend payments during the year of $2,190,251, of which $1,031,207 was paid on outstanding preferred stock, and $1,159,044 on common.

Joins WJZ Sales Staff

George F. Perkins has joined the sales staff of New York radio station WJZ, according to an announcement by Robert I. Garver, WJZ sales manager.

Companies' Decree Views Are Delayed

Washington, Feb. 20.—Department of Justice officials reported here late today that the letter setting forth the views of the five decree companies on the Government's proposals for an ad interim amendment to the clearance provisions of the decree had not been received at a late hour this afternoon. The companies' letter, due today, is said to have been mailed in New York Monday.

Decree company attorneys said yesterday they could not disclose the contents of their message to the Department of Justice prior to its receipt by the Department. A copy of their letter to the Department was received by Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard who said he would make its contents public on March 5.

U. S. Asks Griffith Case Postponement

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Postponement of the Griffith case until early in May has been asked of the Federal Court at Oklahoma City by the Department of Justice to prevent interference with arguments on the Government's petition for revision of the consent decree, which opens in New York March 5, it was learned here today.

Officials of the anti-trust division who will participate in the New York presentation, which is expected to include a motion for issuance of a temporary order restraining clearance, said that while it was not known how long that matter would take, it was felt advisable to have the Griffith suit put off so that there would be no danger of conflict.

The Griffith trial was scheduled to begin March 12, and is expected to take a number of weeks. A Department of Justice spokesman said no new date has been fixed for the case, but that it probably would open early in May.

Bergman Starts 'U's' Star-Name Promotion

Maurice A. Bergman, Universal's Eastern publicity-advertising director, left New York yesterday for Cincinnati and Cleveland to start a key city tour on behalf of Universal's star-building advertising program, in line with the recent announcement by W. A. Scully, vice-president and general sales manager, in which he revealed 'U's' plans for participating in special advertising with exhibitors in promoting the names of new Universal players.

The first campaign will be directed to Yvonne DeCarlo, who has the lead in Walter Wanger's "Salome, Where She Danced."

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sensation!
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MICKEY ROONEY *as MI TAYLOR*

"Caps his career with an inspired performance as the wanderer." —DAILY VARIETY

M-G-M's Great Technicolor Heart Drama

A CLARENCE BROWN PRODUCTION
Based on the Novel "National Velvet" by Enid Bagnold

Starring

MICKEY ROONEY

with

DONALD CRISP · ELIZABETH TAYLOR

ANNE REVERE • ANGELA LANSBURY • "BUTCH" JENKINS • ARTHUR TREACHER

Directed by CLARENCE BROWN • Produced by PANDRO S. BERMAN

SCREEN PLAY BY THEODORE REEVES AND HELEN DEUTSCH

A *Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer* Picture

★

DONALD CRISP *as MR. BROWN*
"Rich in emotion, in humor, in earthy philosophy and human understanding."
—MOTION PICTURE HERALD

ELIZABETH TAYLOR *as VELVET BROWN*
"Flawless and enchanting portrayal...a materialized dream of wholesome loveliness." —SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIEW

"Call me Butch!"
JACKIE JENKINS *as DONALD BROWN*
"Calmly walks away with every scene in which he appears, a completely natural youngster."
HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

HONORING OUR 21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP
WITH A PICTURE YOU'LL BE PROUD TO PLAY

"NATIONAL VELVET"

100% Set for Red Cross Week:Rathvon

(Continued from page 1)

distribution chairman for New York; Sam Rinzler, co-chairman; and—as the feature of the event—by Arthur L. Mayer, deputy commissioner of the Red Cross in the Pacific area, who flew 10,000 miles from Saipan at Rathvon's request to aid the campaign.

"I need not tell you that this is our industry's greatest undertaking of the war," Rathvon said. "There is no goal. Last year's record of $5,500,000 in theatre collections must be topped by a substantial margin."

"Not a single industry person asked to serve on any of the many committees has refused," the national chairman reported. The drive trailer, press book, posters, advertising copy, a new system of reporting pledges and collections, detailed instruction to area chairmen—all are ready, and most of the material has been distributed, he disclosed. Nine teams of three each are ready to jump off on a schedule that calls for exhibitor-distributor meetings in 32 exchange cities, all in a single week. "Last year 13,438 theatres collected for the Red Cross out of a possible 16,747. This year we want them all."

'First Order of Business'

Reagan emphasized the attention devoted to the drive by exchange personnel under the chairmanship of Milton Kussel. He declared the distributors had made the campaign the first order of business. He urged film salesmen and others contacting exhibitors to persuade each theatre to order the proper accessories and use them; to run the trailer and make collections at each performance. He praised the cooperation of the distribution branch, and promised exhibitors that it would be emphasized and intensified throughout the drive. Rinzler expressed appreciation for the interest of exhibitors in signing the pledges, and predicted that the high record of last year in this area would be surpassed. He urged exhibitors to lend their best efforts to the drive and to follow through with full reports to their chairmen.

'Sanity in Mad World'

Mayer described, through a series of anecdotes, the functions of the Red Cross as he has seen them at numerous outposts in the South Pacific. He termed the work of the organization "a crusade for construction where all about is destruction, for selflessness in the midst of violence and brutality, for love on the battlefields of hate, for sanity in a world gone mad."

"If there is a bright spot on the dark horizon of man's future," Mayer said, "it is the spirit of service and dedication to humanity that the Red Cross represents. It knows no barriers of race or color. It is not perfect but it seeks perfection. In that effort, it turns to practical business men for guidance and leadership—men, I am proud to say, from our industry like Stanton Griffis and Harvey Gibson, who, at tremendous sacrifice, are doing a job of inestimable value."

Launch Red Cross Rallies

Some 1,300 industry members of the New York-New Jersey area yesterday launched a series of 32 rallies to be held in key cities in behalf of the 1945 Red Cross War Fund drive in theatres, March 15 through 21. Industry leaders yesterday addressed the assembled exhibitors and distributor representatives at a breakfast in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here. Among those on the dais, left to right, were: Major L. E. Thompson, RKO, national executive coordinator for the drive; William F. Rodgers, M-G-M, toastmaster at the meeting; N. Peter Rathvon, RKO, national industry drive chairman; Colby Chester, national chairman of the national Red Cross War Fund; Arthur Mayer, deputy commissioner of the Red Cross for Honolulu, in Red Cross uniform; Sam Rinzler, WAC exhibitor chairman for the New York area.

Photo by Staff Photographer

In his description of the Red Cross work, Mayer concentrated on the three main channels: field directors, clubs and hospital services. He told how 30 directors went ashore with the landing troops at one island and were followed by 10 tons of Red Cross supplies. "Within a few weeks after our landing at Kwajalein," he added, "our directors were relaying emergency messages to and from families at home."

The meeting opened with the singing of the national anthem by Lucy Monroe, followed by invocation by Capt. T. Sandrow, U. S. Army, and the screening of the special Red Cross trailer featuring Ingrid Bergman. Major L. E. Thompson, national executive coordinator of the drive, introduced William F. Rodgers, who served as toastmaster.

On the Dais

On the dais, in addition to the speakers, were Leon J. Bamberger, national campaign director; Leo Brecher, his associate; S. Barret McCormick and Harry Mandel, national publicity directors; Arthur M. Briant, national publicity coordinator; Henderson M. Richey, in charge of meeting arrangements; Herman Robbins, trailers and accessories; William C. Michel, corporate gifts; John J. O'Connor, home office collections, and Walter J. (Red) Barber, Greater New York Red Cross campaign chairman.

Also Barney Balaban, Edward Bell, Joseph Bernhard, Harry Brandt, Colby M. Chester, Max Cohen, Frank Damos, Si Fabian, Herman Gluckman, James R. Grainger, Bernie Kamber, Milton Kussel, Harry Lowenstein, Robert Mochrie, Abe Montague, Charles Moskowitz, Paul Moss, Henry Randal, Harry Ross, James Sauter, George Schaefer, Ed Schnitzer, William Scully, Spyros Skouras, Martin Smith, David Weinstock, William White and Adolph Zukor.

J. O'Connor Heads Special Drive Unit

John J. O'Connor, vice-president of Universal Pictures, has been appointed chairman of the motion picture division of a new committee of the entertainment industry which will conduct a joint management-labor campaign for the Red Cross 1945 War Fund of Greater New York.

Mark Woods, president of the Blue Network, is chairman of the new committee whose objective will be to secure larger contributions for the Red Cross in the New York entertainment field. William Feinberg, secretary of Local No. 802 of the American Federation of Musicians, is vice-chairman under the appointments made by Walter (Red) Barber, city-wide chairman.

Alternating Chairmanship

In pointing out that the work of the committee will not be limited to this year's campaign, but will function in future Red Cross campaigns, Woods said that it is planned that the chairmanship will alternate each year between management and labor.

The overall committee is divided into five other units headed by the following chairmen: legitimate theatres division, Gertrude Lawrence and Lee Shubert, co-chairmen; radio division, Robert Swezey, vice-president of Mutual Broadcasting, chairman with five sub-chairmen who represent networks and independent stations; Metropolitan Opera division, Mrs. Blanche Witherspoon, chairman; concert division, Arthur Judson and Sol Hurok co-chairmen; cabaret division, Leon Enken, chairman; Jewish theatre division, Irving Grossman, chairman.

Film, radio, and other unions in the entertainment field are participating.

Seek to Raise WPB 285 Print Limit

(Continued from page 1)

tee, to call a meeting of the theatre industry advisory committee to consider the matter.

OCR officials, however, maintained the position that the cut in allocations was of so small an extent as to offer no threat to the operations of subsequent houses and, with the assurance of Stanley B. Adams, director of the WPB's Consumer Durable Goods Division, that the interests of such exhibitors would be protected, denied Fabian's request.

At the same time, they told Fabian that if exhibitors had information and data to support their contention, further consideration would be given the desirability of an industry committee meeting.

The attitude of Washington officials generally is that it is too early to determine just what the effects of the restriction may be and it should be given an opportunity to operate so that definite information might be secured. In the event experience shows that it actually is detrimental to the interests of any exhibitors, they said, action will be taken to correct this situation.

Mono. Renews with Empire of Australia

Monogram has closed a long term contract with British Empire Films, Ltd., Australia, for the distribution of its product in that territory, Norton V. Ritchey, Monogram vice-president in charge of foreign operations, disclosed here yesterday. The deal actually represents a renewal of an existing arrangement between Monogram and BEF, which has been Monogram's distributor in Australia for a number of years.

First production to be released under the new agreement will be "Forever Yours." Other films included are the "Charlie Chan" series, of which Monogram already has five ready.

WLB to Resume RKO Hearing Tuesday

Hearings will be resumed before the Regional War Labor Board here next Tuesday in the contract dispute between RKO Theatres and Motion Picture Theatre Operating Managers and Assistant Managers Guild, representing managers and assistants in the 40 RKO theatres in Metropolitan New York.

It is expected that the RWLB will require still another meeting before it takes the case under advisement.

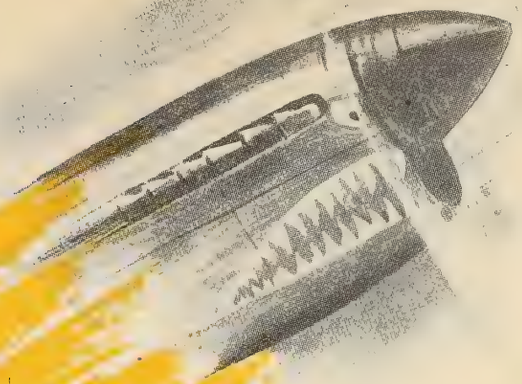
Eastman Declares 2 $1.50 Dividends

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Feb. 20.—Directors of Eastman Kodak today boosted the regular annual dividend payment on common stock to $6 by declaring a regular quarterly dividend of $1.50 per share. Last year the company was on a regular $5 annual basis, augmented by an extra dividend of 75 cents in December.

The regular quarterly dividend of $1.50 was also declared on six per cent preferred. Dividends are payable April 2 to stockholders of record March 5.

IN MACON, GEORGIA TODAY...

In Macon, Georgia today there will be celebrated, with the ceremony it so richly warrants, the advance World Premiere of the new Warner Bros. Achievement



GOD IS MY CO-PILOT

This at last brings to Motion Pictures the work called by the N.Y. Times *"The most fascinating personal story of the war"* — the leading best-seller by that Flying Tiger who flew head-on into the Rising Sun

Col. ROBERT L. SCOTT, Jr.

Starring

DENNIS MORGAN

as Col. Scott

DANE CLARK

as Ed "Reckless" Rector

RAYMOND MASSEY

as General Claire L. Chennault

ALAN HALE

as the Flying Padre

NDREA KING • JOHN RIDGELY • Screen Play by Peter Milne and Abem Finkel • Music by Franz Waxman • Directed by ROBERT FLOREY

JACK L. WARNER

28 Releases from Paramount This Year: C. M. Reagan

Paramount will release 28 pictures during 1944-45, Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution, informed the regional sales meeting of New York, Boston and Buffalo districts sales forces which concluded at the Hotel Pierre here yesterday. Previous indications were that the company would release 30 or more.

The total, he added, will include the 'modernized' "The Sign of the Cross." Besides the four blocks of films already announced, the program will probably include the following: the first two Hal Wallis productions, "The Affairs of Susan" and "You Came Along;" "Incendiary Blonde," "A Medal For Benny," "Out of This World," "Murder, He Says" "Scared Stiff" and "One Exciting Night."

Reagan paid tribute at the meeting to the work and importance of advertising, publicity and exploitation, declaring that these functions are as important as production, distribution and exhibition, and in his opinion represent the fourth branch of the industry.

Faith in Radio

R. M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director, discussed advertising and promotion plans for forthcoming pictures. He pointed out that Paramount strongly believes in the efficacy of radio exploitation of films.

Oscar A. Morgan, general sales manager of short subjects and Paramount News, said that despite the difficulties of raw stock and color print problems confronting short subject producers, the studio is far ahead on this phase of production and the 1944-45 program of 64 subjects, including 38 in color, will be delivered as scheduled.

Morgan said that sales of his department reached a new high level last season and are continuing the pace, ascribing this wider distribution in part to the company's "Musical Parades" series. He also cited unprecedented public interest in newsreels.

The field forces concluded the two-day meeting by attending a 'sneak' preview of "Out of This World" at the New York Paramount Theatre.

Kusell and Smith To Join Vanguard

(Continued from page 1)

with headquarters in Los Angeles. Sam Horowitz will continue Middle-West and Southern supervision of sales, with headquarters in Chicago.

The setup marks the formation of divisional sales control for Vanguard and will eliminate the former post of domestic general sales manager, which had been held by Hugh Owen prior to his recent return to Paramount. All sales will be supervised by Agnew. The new appointments will be effective on March 1.

Korda, Goetz to London

Alexander Korda and Ben Goetz will leave New York for England sometime next week. Korda's first job will be to finish the dubbing and scoring of "Perfect Strangers"; a print is scheduled for delivery to M-G-M here by April 1.

Reviews

"God Is My Co-Pilot"

(*Warner Brothers*)

Hollywood, Feb. 20

FROM Col. Robert Lee Scott's book of the same title, Warners has welded in "God Is My Co-Pilot" an adventure story of the war in China's skies. When it is in the air, this attraction is at its exciting peak. When on the ground, the juxtaposition of dramatic events compels its tempo to become quieter. Films dealing with dog fights and magnificent air-scrapes do not seem able to escape this, but, in overall terms, this show ought to register.

The popularity of the book, moreover, should serve its celluloid counterpart in very good stead. Scott's story is widely known. The title which covers his career in the Army, with Chennault's Flying Tigers and, finally, with the regular Army Air Forces in the Chinese theatre is arresting. The screenplay by Peter Milne and Abem Finkel, and direction, by Robert Florey, sought to incorporate spiritual connotations and meanings which this title offered. While there is strong suggestion of this purpose in the finished job, the objective is never wholly attained. The result, consequently, is more on the side of thrilling adventure and great hazards against overwhelming and discouraging odds than on the side of spiritual content.

The film is autobiographical. It unfolds the life of Scott, played standard-size by Dennis Morgan, from boyhood days through the years, to his career in China. While his personal exploits are maintained in the foreground, the courageous history of General Chennault and his famed Flying Tigers, in large measure, becomes the story which is dramatized. That story could be viewed as one of epic proportions, supported by contemporary reportage of the war in the Far East.

The extensive footage devoted to the air passages is packed with excitement and is a tribute to the expertness of Charles Marshall's aerial photography. He figures as importantly in the credit ledger as any other individual identified with the attraction.

Raymond Massey makes a strong and effective Chennault. Alan Hale, as the priest, is not entirely believable. But representative performances are contributed by Dane Clark, Andrea King, John Ridgely, Stanley Ridges and Craig Stevens, in a lengthy cast. Robert Buckner produced.

Running time, 89 minutes. General classification. Release date not set.

RED KANN

"High Powered"

(*Paramount*)

Hollywood, Feb. 20

PRODUCERS William Pine and William Thomas continue here their staple service, utilizing Robert Lowery this time as hero and a high octane plant as the setting for his heroics. The picture is about par for the Pine-Thomas category.

Lowery portrays a "high man" (construction crew parlance) who has lost his nerve, due to a fall, but overcomes fear in a crisis and rescues his long-time friend and romantic rival when the latter is caught in a cable atop a lofty boom. Roger Pryor plays the friendly rival (there are no villains) and Phyllis Brooks is the object of their affections, with Mary Treen, Joe Sawyer and Ralph Sanford furnishing comedy support.

William Berke directed, from a script by Milton Raison and Maxwell Shane, based on an original by Raison, all these craftsmen emphasizing the humorous side of the enterprise most of the way.

Running time, 62 minutes. General classification. Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

Penna. Gets a Race Discrimination Bill

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20.—One of the few bills introduced by the state legislature of interest to the industry is the proposal in the House by Rep. Homer S. Brown, D., Allegheny, to establish a state fair employment practice commission. Its broad powers would be to prevent job discrimination because of race, creed, or color, and the measure would give the governor authority to appoint a five-member enforcement commission.

"Discrimination" is defined in the bill as refusal to employ any person for any job for which his skill or technical knowledge may qualify him, or to deny any promotion or increase in wages or salary to any employe because of race, color or creed.

Party for Buchanan

United Artists will be host at a reception at the Stork Club today to Barry Buchanan, newly appointed advertising-publicity director of the company. Representatives of the industry and Metropolitan press and company executives will attend.

Penn. Allied Supports National Resolutions

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 20.—Allied of Western Pennsylvania has given unanimous endorsement to the two resolutions adopted by National Allied in Columbus, it is reported by Morris M. Finkel, president.

The first resolution approves Government proposals for modification of the consent decree, and urges distributors to give favorable consideration to the proposals. The second resolution praises the War Activities Committee, but expresses the opinion that too much authority has been designated to a few members of the committee, and asks for a clearer definition of the organizations' responsibilities and functions.

First Italian Film

The first Italian film to be produced since the liberation of Rome will be shown in Italy soon under the title of "Open City," press dispatches to New York reveal. Film describes life in Rome during the Nazi-Fascist regime.

Kulick Heads PRC Sales

(Continued from page 1)

with the company in its production department at the studio.

Kulick, who will make his headquarters in New York, also will act as sales manager. Safier will have charge of sales from Chicago West and will make his headquarters at PRC's studio in Hollywood. Exchanges over which he will have jurisdiction include Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Omaha, Des Moines, Denver, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Portland.

Prior to the new appointments in the PRC distribution setup Jack Adams, Jr., was named as Southern division manager.

Fromkess, who on his previous visit to New York, signed commitments whereby PRC acquired eight key city exchanges, comprising nearly 40 per cent of its own domestic distribution, will announce the purchase of additional exchanges before he returns to the studio. It is the company's intention, according to Fromkess, to control its own distribution entirely as soon as local conditions make such a move possible.

Eight Exchanges

The eight exchanges now owned and operated by the company include Los Angeles, with Harry Stern as manager; Dallas, John Mitchell, manager; Cleveland, Mark Goldman; Cincinnati, Harry Bugie; Detroit, Bill Flemion; Pittsburgh, Lew Lefton; Omaha, Harry Rogers, and Des Moines, also managed by Rogers.

Kulick, with Fromkess, was one of the original organizers of PRC, owning the New York franchise.

WB Nets $2,350,000; Directors Reelected

(Continued from page 1)

reduction of $2,853,000 in consolidated funded debt since Sept. 1, 1944, bringing the total funded and other long term debt of the company and subsidiaries to approximately $46,800,000.

In answer to inquiries about the company's dividend policy, officials stated that it was the intention of the management to continue to apply available cash receipts to reducing the company's outstanding debt. Officials pointed out that the program of debt reduction is directed towards the ultimate goal of placing the common stock on a sound dividend basis.

The following were re-elected directors of the company: Samuel Carlisle, Stanleigh P. Friedman, Charles S. Guggenheimer, Samuel Schneider, Morris Wolf.

Announcement that an offer of $2,000,000 for old Warner films was made at the meeting. The offer, twice the sum offered in 1944 by Jacques Kopfstein, New York, was rejected when it was shown that some $2,000,000 had been grossed by the films last year.

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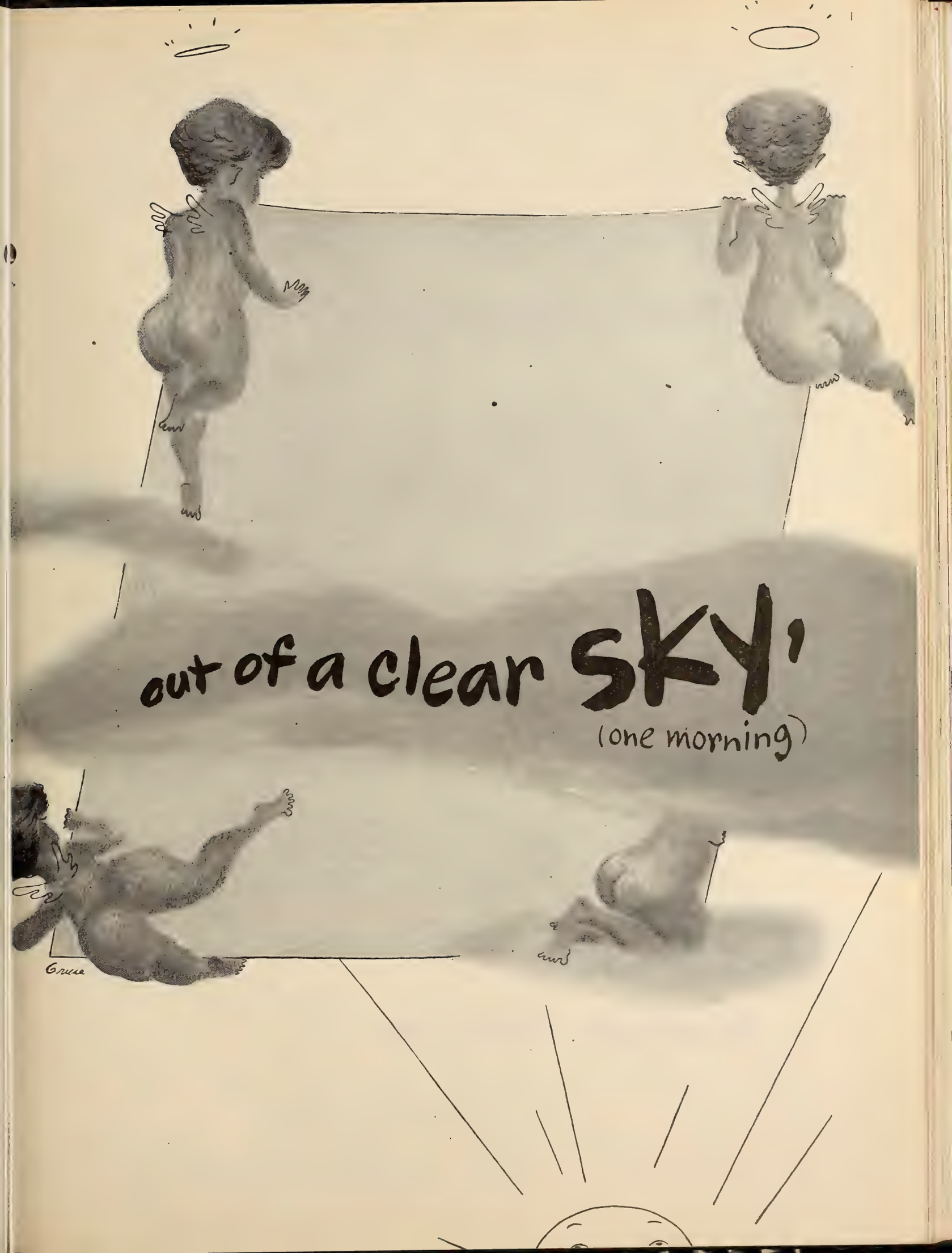
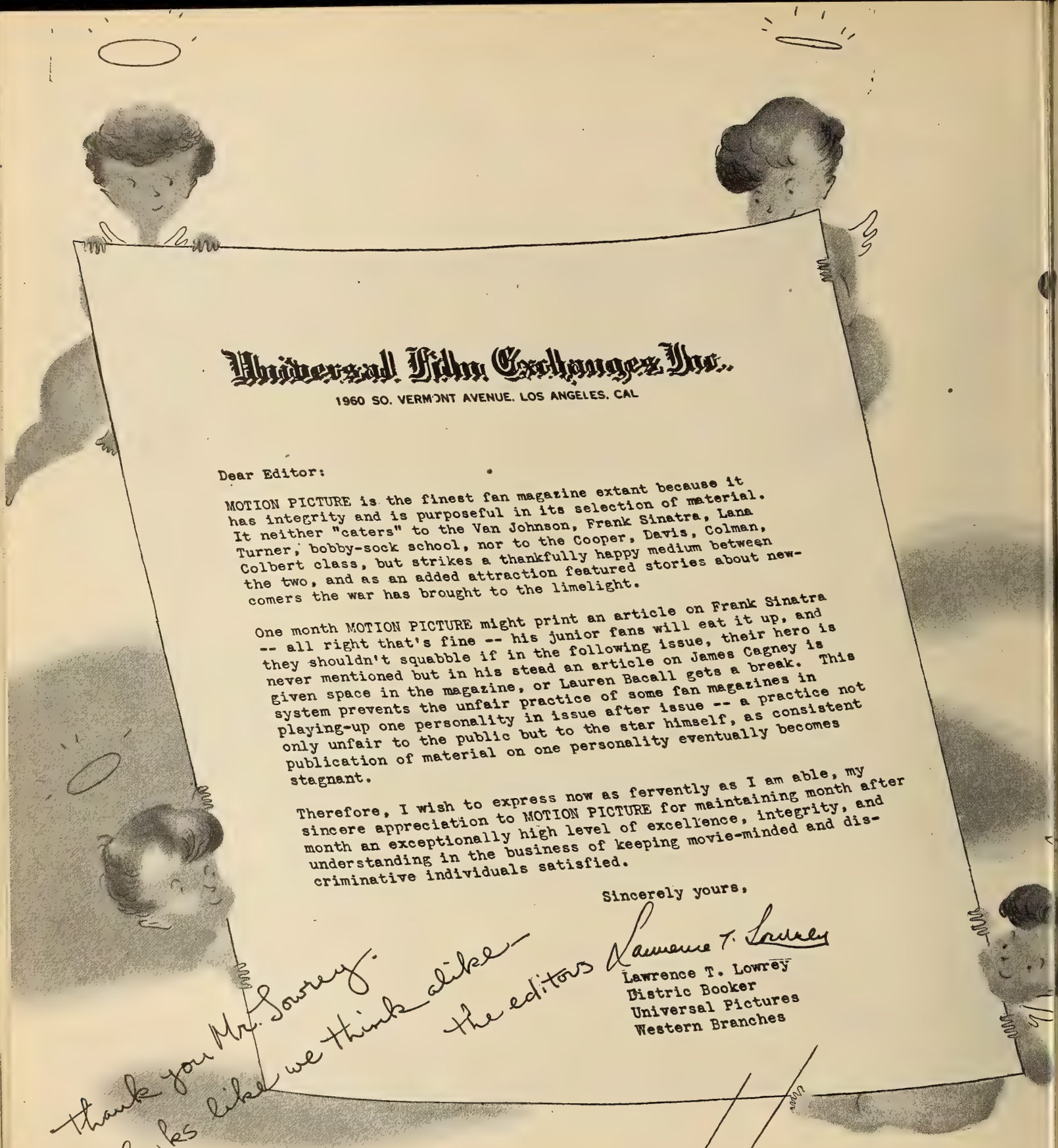

out of a clear SKY!
(one morning)
Bruce



Universal Film Exchanges Inc.

1960 SO. VERMONT AVENUE. LOS ANGELES. CAL

Dear Editor:

MOTION PICTURE is the finest fan magazine extant because it has integrity and is purposeful in its selection of material. It neither "caters" to the Van Johnson, Frank Sinatra, Lana Turner, bobby-sock school, nor to the Cooper, Davis, Colman, Colbert class, but strikes a thankfully happy medium between the two, and as an added attraction featured stories about newcomers the war has brought to the limelight.

One month MOTION PICTURE might print an article on Frank Sinatra -- all right that's fine -- his junior fans will eat it up, and they shouldn't squabble if in the following issue, their hero is never mentioned but in his stead an article on James Cagney is given space in the magazine, or Lauren Bacall gets a break. This system prevents the unfair practice of some fan magazines in playing-up one personality in issue after issue -- a practice not only unfair to the public but to the star himself, as consistent publication of material on one personality eventually becomes stagnant.

Therefore, I wish to express now as fervently as I am able, my sincere appreciation to MOTION PICTURE for maintaining month after month an exceptionally high level of excellence, integrity, and understanding in the business of keeping movie-minded and discriminative individuals satisfied.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence T. Lowrey

Lawrence T. Lowrey
Distric Booker
Universal Pictures
Western Branches

thank you Mr. Lowrey.
looks like we think alike —
the editors

Motion Picture

The Fan Magazine that carries
"Twice As Many Stories"

Fawcett Publications, Inc.,
1501 Broadway, New York 18, N. Y.

World's Largest Publishers
of Monthly Magazines

RWLB Approves Boosts in 4 Cities

Regional War Labor Boards have approved a system of job classifications with minimum and maximum wage scales and minimum 10 per cent wage increases, retroactive to Dec., 1943, for about 300 office workers represented by the IATSE in Cleveland, Atlanta, Charlotte and Memphis film exchanges.

Applications for similar increases have been made by the IATSE and film companies in all exchange areas where the IATSE has jurisdiction; several approvals have previously been secured, including those for workers in New York, Albany and Buffalo exchanges, among others.

The system of 18 job classifications provides for rate ranges of $23-$32 a week for film clerks to $62-$85 a week for head bookers in larger exchange cities, with a slightly lower scale for smaller cities.

Schwartz & Howard On Mid-Western Tour

Sol A. Schwartz, general manager of RKO's out-of-town theatres, and his assistant, William Howard, are on a tour of RKO's Midwestern theatres. They will meet with division and theatre managers, discussing business and participation in the coming Red Cross 'War Fund Week,' March 15-21. This week's itinerary calls for visits to Chicago, Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Marshalltown and Sioux City with other cities scheduled daily up to Wednesday, Mar. 28, when Schwartz will be in Cincinnati.

More A-Juniors Get SAG Board Posts

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 20.—The Screen Actors Guild membership has almost unanimously approved by-law changes which will give A-Junior members increased representation on the Guild board. Class A members voted by ballot on by-law modifications necessitated by the elimination of the Class B membership when the Screen Players Union won a National Labor Relations Board election to determine the bargaining agency for extra players.

Former Manager Killed

CHATTANOOGA, Feb. 20.—Second Lieut. Brents M. Lowry, Jr., former assistant manager of the State Theatre, a P-47 fighter pilot, was killed in action in the Burma area in December, according to a War Department announcement to his parents here. Overseas since August, 1944, Lt. Lowry had previously received the Purple Heart for wounds received in the China-Burma-India theatre.

S. A. Quinerly Dies

MIAMI, Feb. 20.—S. A. Quinerly, who formerly operated theatres in Greenville, S. C., died this morning at his home here. Burial will be in Los Angeles.

Altec Raises Evans

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20.—Frank B. Evans has been appointed branch manager of Altec here, it was announced by D. A. Peterson, Philadelphia district manager.

Loew's 1944 Net Income Totals $14,517,256

(*Continued from page* 1)

split up each share of common into three new shares.

The proposed amendment of the certificate of incorporation to provide a sufficient amount of common for the split-up also includes the elimination of all authorized preferred stock, none of which is presently outstanding.

The consolidated balance sheet of the corporation shows current and working assets of $30,926,273, of which $20,705,962 is cash. This includes $7,957,953 cash from foreign countries, of which $6,441,326 has already been received in the U. S. Assets in invaded and enemy countries were written off in 1942. U. S. Government securities are worth $6,035,897; War Savings bonds, $3,170,512; and foreign government securities, $1,013,901.

Inventories

Inventories at cost were valued at $66,165,617, with a breakdown showing films in progress worth $29,605,923; films completed but not released, $13,926,069; films released, less amortization, $16,829,696; books and rights, $4,158,012; film advertising accessories, $105,009; and theatre and studio supplies, $1,540,906.

Fixed assets were valued at $71,789,420; land, at $33,017,942; buildings and equipment at $65,138,438, and leaseholds at $4,939,575. Reserves for depreciation were $31,306,536. Total assets were $190,091,812.

Liabilities and capital included $8,209,774 for accounts payable and accruals; domestic and foreign taxes of $20,711,320, and funded debt installments of $2,553,911. With other minor items the total current liabilities were $32,021,026.

Reserves for general contingencies were $2,021,773. The funded debt was $31,893,507. This was broken down into three per cent sinking fund debentures, with maturity in 1956 of $13,000,000; two-and-one-quarter per cent promissory notes, payable semi-annually from Dec. 15, 1944, to Dec. 15, 1946, for a total of $2,500,000; first lien three-and-one-half per cent bonds of wholly-owned subsidiaries, with a maturity in 1954, totaling $11,250,000; and other bonds and mortgages of wholly owned subsidiaries, $5,143,507. Common stock, with an outstanding 1,685,109 shares of an authorized 4,000,000 shares, was listed at $44,609,050. Earned surplus was $79,678,733.

Operating revenues for the year from theatre receipts, rentals, and sales of films and accessories totaled $160,604,310. Operating and general expenses totaled $119,791,804, as follows: theatre and office buildings, including film rental expenses, $45,134,251; distribution and other film division expenses, $15,748,022; amortization and write-off of film costs, $49,859,666; film advertising accessories, $407,661; outside producers' share of film rentals, $2,887,121; general and administrative, $2,614,346, and contributions to employes' retirement plan, $3,140,733.

Depreciation

Depreciations of buildings and equipment was $15,339,173, of which real estate and other taxes was the largest item, $8,452,451. Federal taxes totaled $12,940,925, of which $8,103,346 was income taxes, the balance excess profits taxes.

The consolidated earned surplus shows a balance as of Sept. 1, 1943, of $71,872,167, with Loew net income, $14,517,255, or a total of $86,389,422, from which $6,710,689 dividends are to be deducted, leaving a final balance of $79,678,733.

Legion Classifies Five More Films

The Legion of Decency this week classified five new films, putting Universal's "See My Lawyer" in Class A-1. Included in Class A-II were: Republic's "Flame of Barbary Coast," Columbia's "I Love a Mystery," United Artists release of the Archers-General Films production of "Life and Death of Col. Blimp" and M-G-M's "The Picture of Dorian Gray."

'Co-Pilot' Opens Tonight

MACON, Ga., Feb. 20.—"God Is My Co-Pilot," Warners, will have its world premiere tomorrow at the Grand Theatre, here. Ceremonies will feature a war bond rally, spotlighted by visiting Hollywood stars, a 'gasless' parade honoring native son Col. Robert Lee Scott, author of the film story, and a Junior League Ball in the city's civic auditorinm.

Alexander on Video

Milton J. Alexander, advertising manager of Allen B. DuMont Laboratories, Passaic, will speak before the Passaic County Electrical League at the Public Service Auditorium, Patterson, on "Television as an Instrument of Postwar Economic Adjustment," this evening.

Heath Named by NBC To Head Information

Horton H. Heath was yesterday appointed director of information of National Broadcasting, succeeding Albert E. Dale, who has resigned, it was reported here yesterday by Frank E. Mullen, NBC vice-president and general manager.

Heath went to NBC in Jan., 1944, as assistant to Mullen. He had been associated with RCA since 1936 as assistant manager of the department of information, and manager and director of advertising-publicity since 1940. Mrs. Irene Kuhn, assistant director of information for NBC and Miss Anita L. Barnard, manager of the correspondence division, will report to Heath.

Equity Hits Bennett

The Council of Actors Equity yesterday passed a resolution on behalf of all performers for USO Camp Shows condemning the statement of Congressman Marion T. Bennett, belittling the services which the performers have given.

'Pleasure' Tradeshow

The New York trade showing of International's "It's a Pleasure," will be held at the Normandie Theatre, here, Monday, Feb. 26, at 10:30 a.m.

Industry Joins Clothing Drive

Four members of the industry have accepted invitations to serve on the United National Clothing Collection Committee, an agency sponsored by 50 war relief groups aiding peoples of war-devastated countries. Serving with 60 others who will guide the April drive for 150,000,000 pounds of clothing will be: Edward Arnold, executive vice-president of the industry's Permanent Charities Committee; Jean Hersholt, American Denmark Relief; Louis B. Mayer; and Spyros P. Skouras, president, Greek War Relief.

Initial meeting of the national committee will be held at the White House on Tuesday, Feb. 27. Henry J. Kaiser is National Chairman.

French Here to Get Film Recordings

Distributor and foreign sales divisions of the War Activities Committee have agreed to make available, subject to clearance with music publishers, film recordings of musical records recently made for Office of War Information broadcasts from England to France, to French military camps in this country.

Discussed at the same meeting were the request of the Navy for the purchase of reissues; the request of the Army officials to supply 16mm. films for German war prisoners in camps in this country, and the showing of 35mm. pictures in theatres in Continental Europe for Army personnel, at three cents a head.

Decorators Win WLB Verdict Over IATSE

(*Continued from page* 1)

trator, Thomas Tongue, rendered a decision in favor of the decorators.

Ed Mussa, the decorators' business manager, said the union was fully satisfied with the decision, which opens the way for employing producers to negotiate changes in the present contract, which runs until April, 1947, or a new contract to supersede it. Herbert Sorrell, president of the Conference of Studio Unions, which backed the decorators in the dispute, said the producers' labor contact, Pat Casey, has agreed to open negotiations on the basis of the WLB decision.

A spokesman for the producers declined to make a statement.

Old Zanuck Film Returns

"Call of the Wild," starring Clark Gable, Loretta Young and Jack Oakie, produced originally under the 20th Century banner by Darryl F. Zanuck, will be re-released by 20th Century-Fox Corporation as one of its 30th anniversary pictures, it was announced here yesterday by William J. Kupper, general sales manager.

Gorham Honored

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Feb. 20.—Among Eastman Kodak officials receiving gold medals in recognition of 50 years service with the company are Jack L. Gorham, assistant treasurer, and Edward T. McDermott, manager of the New York branch. Presentations were made by Thomas J. Hargrave, company president.

10 New Films Raise Total In Work to 47

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 20. — Production activity increased last week, as 10 new films were started, and five others completed; total in work was 47, compared with 42 a week ago:

Columbia

Started: "Blonde from Brooklyn," with Bob Haymes, Lynn Merrick, Mary Treen, Thurston Hall; "Surprise in the Night," with Chester Morris, Steve Cochran, Nina Foch.

Shooting: "Over 21," "Kiss and Tell" (Sol Siegel).

M-G-M

Shooting: "Early to Wed," "Yolanda and the Thief," "The Harvey Girls," "Her Highness and the Bellboy," "Weekend at the Waldorf."

Monogram

Finished: "The County Fair," "Flaming Frontier."

Started: "Come Out Fighting," with Leo Gorcey, Huntz Hall, Billy Benedict, George Meeker.

Paramount

Shooting: "Follow That Woman" (Pine-Thomas), "The Well Groomed Bride," "You Came Along" (Hal Wallis), "Masquerade in Mexico," "Cross My Heart."

RKO Radio

Started: "Mama Loves Papa," with Leon Errol, Elisabeth Risdon, Paul Harvey, Edwin Maxwell, Emory Parnell, Charlotte Wynters, Ruth Lee.

Shooting: "First Man Into Tokyo," "The Most Dangerous Game," "George White's Scandals of 1945," "Man Alive," "Those Endearing Young Charms," "The Spanish Main," "Invisible Army."

Republic

Finished: "Santa Fe Saddlemates," "Bells of Rosarita."

Started: "Scotland Yard Investigator," with Sir Aubrey Smith, Eric von Stroheim, Stephanie Bachelor, Richard Fraser; "Girls of the Big House," with Lynne Roberts, Adele Mara.

Shooting: "The Amazing Mr. M."

20th Century-Fox

Finished: "Caribbean Mystery."

Started: "Dragonwyck," with Gene Tierney, Vincent Price, Anne Revere, Walter Huston, Michael Francis, Spring Byington.

Shooting: "Junior Miss," "Two-Faced Quilligan," "The Dolly Sisters," "State Fair," "Captain Eddie," "10 Little Indians" (Popular Pictures).

United Artists

Started: "Young Widow" (Hunt Stromberg), with Ida Lupino.

Shooting: "Paris — Underground" (Bennett); "Captain Kidd" (Bogeaus).

Universal

Started: "Men in Her Diary," with Jon Hall, Louise Allbritton, Peggy Ryan, Virginia Grey, William Terry, Vivian Austin, Lorin Raker, Eve Amber, Lorraine Miller.

Shooting: "Strange Confession," "The Naughty Nineties," "Lady on a Train," "A Night in Paradise."

Warners

Started: "Stolen Life," with Bette Davis, Glenn Ford, Walter Brennan, Charles Ruggles.

Shooting: "Shadow of a Woman," "Too Young to Know," "This Love of Ours," "Mildred Pierce," "Three Strangers."

Reviews

"Pan-Americana"

(RKO Radio)

Hollywood, Feb. 20

NOVEL and well-staged production numbers highlight this comedy with music, produced and directed by John H. Auer. One of the most effective is "Babalu," a Cuban dance of excitement and power, upon the conclusion of which the preview audience at Hollywood's Pantages theatre burst into spontaneous applause.

Phillip Terry, Audrey Long and Eve Arden head the cast, with Robert Benchley acting as narrator of the story, which is little more than a device for the introduction of song and dance numbers. Lawrence Kimble's screenplay, based on an original by Auer and Frederick Kohner, displays Terry as a magazine photographer, and Miss Long as a feature writer. The two are sent on an assignment to South America. Although Miss Long has a fiance in Brazil, and Terry is constitutionally averse to marriage, propinquity overrides these factors, and the pair fall in love. Marc Cramer, who is cast as the fiance, steps aside when he realizes the true state of affairs, and wedding bells ring out in the final reel.

The film is a good piece of work on all counts, entertaining, lively, and striking a timely note through presentation of the representative songs and dances of Mexico, Cuba and Brazil. Sid Rogell was executive producer.

Running time, 84 minutes. General classification. Release in block No. 3.

THALIA BELL

"Strange Illusion"

(PRC)

Hollywood, Feb. 20

AN absorbing story, fine acting by James Lydon, and skillful direction by Edgar Ulmer combine to make this psychological mystery-drama one of the best in its particular field. Leon Fromkess personally produced.

Adele Comandini's screenplay, based on a story by Fritz Rotter, opens with a dream sequence which colors all succeeding events. The dreamer is Lydon, a sensitive, impressionable boy whose father had met a violent end some years before. Obsessed by the charge his father has laid upon him, to protect his mother, the boy is mistrustful of a stranger who arrives in the community and becomes a suitor for the mother's hand. In the face of opposition from his family and friends, the boy embarks upon an investigation of his own, resulting in evidence that the handsome stranger is actually a murderer. The tension and uneasiness generated in earlier sequences come to an exciting climax in the final reel.

The cast includes Warren William, Sally Eilers, Regis Toomey, Charles Arnt, George H. Reed, Jayne Hazard, Jimmy Clark and Mary McLeod. The performances of Warren William and Mary McLeod are noteworthy.

Running time, 86 minutes. General classification. Release date, March 31.

T. B.

"Docks of New York"

(Monogram)

Hollywood, Feb. 20

PRODUCER Sam Katzman and Jack Dietz present here another in their "East Side Kids" series. It is the best of the series so far; interesting, credible and comic. Leo Gorcey and Huntz Hall provide most of the laughs, aided by some clever dialogue by Harvey Gates, who wrote the original screenplay.

In the opening sequences the "Kids" find a diamond necklace in an alley. Possession of the bauble brings them in contact with a refugee princess, rightful owner of the jewels, and heiress to a throne as well. She is pursued, however, by plotters from her native land, who seek to steal the necklace and put the princess permanently out of the way. In both of these designs the villains are foiled by the quickwittedness of the Kids. Wallace Fox directed with a nice eye for both comedy and suspense.

Running time, 62 minutes. General classification. Release date, not set.

T. B.

"Great Stagecoach Robbery"

(Republic)

Hollywood, Feb. 20

"WILD Bill" Elliott, Bobby Blake and Alice Fleming appear in their familiar roles of Red Ryder, Little Beaver and the Duchess, in this latest of a series of Westerns noted for their superior entertainment value. Lesley Selander's direction, Randall Faye's screenplay, and some better-than-average acting combine to make this one of the best of the series.

Ryder, attempting to befriend a reformed bandit, runs afoul of the bandit's former associates, who are not so quick to repent as he. They frame "Red" for a bank robbery, and in trying to clear his name, the cowboy lays himself open to suspicion of murder. The bandit's little daughter has been brutally killed. But murder will out, and eventually the killer is brought to justice. Louis Gray acted as associate producer.

Running time, 56 minutes. General classification. Release date, not set.

T. B.

Altec Service Renewals

Recent renewals for Altec Service sound and booth parts include the Mark Rubinsky Circuit, Pennsylvania and Bartelstein Theatres, Chicago.

Short Subject Review

"West Coast Question"

(20th Century-Fox-MOT)

"The West Coast Question" is not up to the usual standard of March of Time releases. The economic situation on the Pacific Coast prior to Pearl Harbor is shown with its varied sects, industries and the marked social status which existed. Into this, the fires of war sent a melting pot of millions of new workers, living under subnormal conditions, and at the same time destroyed the Coast's basic economy, by opening new and temporary industries created by the exigencies of war. It is pointed out that the workers who were 'imported,' intend to remain, and new jobs for them and natives must be found. Several proposals of development of natural resources are made in the film, but are immediately eliminated as being unsound, or unlikely. The net result, is that despite some unusual shots of the growth of the film industry, and other basic Coast developments, confusion is caused.

From some standpoints the film is good, and camerawork is fine. Running time, 16 minutes.

Bingo Hits Theatres, Three Bills Hit Bingo

CINCINNATI, Feb. 20. — Bingo and similar games, currently making appreciable inroads on theatre attendance in various sections of Ohio, would be prohibited under three bills introduced into the Senate.

A measure offered by Senator Carl Sheppard, Akron, would make gambling a common felony, with a penalty of one to five years imprisonment, while another bill by Senator George Schurtz, Newcomerstown, would prohibit games of chance entirely, with a fine of $50 to $500, and jail terms of 10 days to six months.

A third bill also has been offered to outlaw Bingo and other such games, now permitted, if conducted by churches or for charitable purposes.

'Bacteria Killer' Is Ready for Theatres

The Westinghouse Sterilamp, device for killing airborne bacteria and sanitizing air, will be distributed to theatres by the theatre equipment division of RCA Victor, it has been announced by Homer B. Snook, manager.

Lamps are installed in ducts or in the plenum chamber of theatre air conditioning systems, or with special fixtures along walls of non-air conditioned auditoriums.

French Film Premiere

"Les Musiciens du Ciel" ("Musicians from Heaven"), French picture starring Michele Morgan and Michel Simon, will have its American premiere at the 55th Street Playhouse here, according to an announcement by English Films, Inc. No date has been set.

Prisoners' Fund Grows

LONDON, Feb. 20.—A total of $1,556,000 was collected by the British industry for the Prisoners of War Fund during 1944, compared with $1,200,000 during 1943.

Theatres Quick to Comply in Curfew

Revenue Loss Indicated as Duals Are Hit

(Continued from page 1)

into effect. To conform to the new operating hours, New York's first-run theatres will have to drop portions of the programs on some days; a full show on other days and there might even be a movement for the elimination of duals or short subjects, it was said. Generally, neighborhood and out of town theatres will only be obliged to drop Saturday midnight shows. No spokesman would hazard a guess as to probable losses of receipts as a result of the new measure.

Possibly the greatest effect of the curfew here will be felt by first-run theatres which operate until two and three in the morning. A spokesman for the Paramount theatre in New York which normally operates until one or two a.m. believes the theatre will have to drop at least seven showings of a feature weekly as well as a Saturday and possibly Sunday night stage show. With pressure business continuing throughout the week, this would mean a substantial cut in operating revenue and the theatre would open earlier as it customarily does when business is heavy, but there will be no opportunities to recoup the lost revenue by increasing the number of possible operating hours. New York theatres are faced with the additional problem of not being permitted to start film showings until noon on Sundays which will hold the theatres to four Sunday shows rather than the five they will be able to sandwich in on weekdays and Saturdays.

Radio City Music Hall and the Roxy normally conclude their weekly shows around midnight with the result that weekday operations will merely mean trimming operating schedules slightly which will be accomplished by an earlier opening in the case of the Roxy and a trimming of shows in the case of Music Hall. All theatres point out that over-long features will not be too welcome under the new operating schedules necessitated by the new order. Other New York first-runs will tailor their operating schedules similarly, dropping their late shows, but few of them can open any earlier than they do at present. Where a film draws capacity or near-capacity business throughout the week, it is possible that it might be held over longer to accommodate the patrons who might not ordinarily be provided with the opportunity to see it under the limited hours of operation.

About 83 Metropolitan Subsequents Affected

Approximately 83 theatres operated by 11 independent circuits in New York and New Jersey will have to abandon extra shows or reshuffle schedules to permit closing before midnight, a survey yesterday disclosed. Of this number, 50 had extra midnight shows or previews on Saturday nights, while the balance had neighborhood shows which ran from a few minutes to an hour past midnight.

Estimates of receipts which would be lost by the curfew ran from $50 a show for some of the smaller houses to $750 on some of the larger ones. The Brandt Circuit, with five theatres on Broadway, the New York, Gotham, Republic, Globe and Pix, and seven others in Times Square, all of which ran shows nightly to 2 a.m., and on Saturdays to 5 a.m., is most affected.

Few Chicago Theatres Will Be Affected

CHICAGO, Feb. 20.—The midnight curfew will cause only minor adjustments at theatres in this territory, since neighborhood houses are empty before that hour.

The situation in the Loop is somewhat more serious, and the growing trend for late shows will be entirely curtailed. The Woods, all-night first run house, will feel the edict more than its competitors, as its round-the-clock policy influenced major independent producers to show their product there. B and K houses will meet the situation by eliminating a short or two and by cutting out late Saturday schedules.

The order will hit more exhibitors by mid-summer, if still in effect by then, as theatres stay open longer due to later nightfall, and last features run way past midnight.

California Hopes to Be Exempted from Curfew

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20.—Although hopeful that California may be exempted from the midnight closing order, as from the "brown-out" ruling, exhibitors will comply fully, a canvass indicates.

The California Theatre Council, speaking for first-runs, exclusive of Fox West Coast, said the order will not seriously affect week-day procedure, but will eliminate Saturday night shows which start at midnight. No advancement of the opening hour is being contemplated. The Warner and Paramount circuits and the Pantages-Hill Street setup were included in the CTC statement.

Only One Boston House In 'Night-Owl' Class

BOSTON, Feb. 20.—The Rialto in Scollay Square, which has been running all-night shows for the past 15 years, and of late has been drawing a large service men's and night shift war workers' patronage, is the only film theatre in Boston affected by the midnight curfew. The house manager said: "We will lose quite a bit of money but will comply, of course."

Four New Orleans Houses Are Ready to Comply

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 20.—The Government curfew eliminates one Saturday midnight film showing in each of four downtown theatres here: Loew's, Orpheum, Saenger's and St. Charles. The latter, the only local house offering bigtime vaudeville, is rearranging its schedule to present the final stage show at 11 p.m. Saturdays, omitting the film which would ordinarily follow. Three theatre spokesmen said they're awaiting instructions from home offices but it is apparent all theatres affected will comply.

Baltimore War Workers Regret Theatre Curfew

BALTIMORE, Feb. 20.—The Time Theatre is the only local house which operates a post-midnight show six nights a week, remaining open until 4 a.m. Morton Baker, manager, said earlier opening schedules may be adopted. Loew's Century gives one midnight show weekly.

Many night workers in local war plants expressed regret that the curfew will mean loss of entertainment for them after late shifts.

Philadelphia Houses Are Set to Comply

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20.—Local theatre men pointed out that the midnight curfew will deprive late shift war workers of their only chance of entertainment and to that extent will cut into theatre receipts. The late shows here were instigated originally at the behest of war workers.

See Pittsburgh in Clear on Curfew

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 20.—All theatres in the Greater Pittsburgh area either are closed by midnight or can arrange to close by that hour with but slight adjustment of their normal schedules, circuit operators and subsequent run exhibitors here declare. All indicated a complete willingness to comply with the midnight curfew request, starting next Monday, and have agreed to alter schedules should bookings of extra long features make that necessary.

Albany Sees Little Curfew Effect There

ALBANY, Feb. 20.—Midnight closing will have little effect upon houses in the Albany exchange district. Midnight shows one night a week have been reported in Oneonta and Hamilton, Schine Circuit situations, and in Sidney, a Smalley Circuit situation. Late evening shows occasionally have been held at Warner's Strand, Albany.

New Haven Untouched

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 20.—Theatres in this area are entirely unaffected by the Government midnight curfew order. Closing hours for all local houses have been uniformly earlier than midnight.

Midnight Ban Instead of Day Closing

(Continued from page 1)

cific instances, a spokesman for the OWM said it would not be possible for a theatre to remain open by cutting off heat prior to midnight, nor if it was located in the Deep South and required no heating or secured its current from hydro-electric stations.

The directive for a midnight curfew was issued by Byrnes in the shape of a "request," but it will have all the effect of an order by reason of his invocation of the authority of the War Manpower Commission, War Production Board and Office of Defense Transportation to deal with failures to comply voluntarily.

'Lights Out, Doors Locked'

Further, it was explained, midnight closing means lights out and doors locked by that time and not merely the ending of the show. This was emphasized by Byrnes in his announcement, in which he said: "By closing at 12 o'clock midnight it is meant that patrons shall leave in time to permit full closing by that time."

One exhibitor, conversant with what had been contemplated in Washington, said the theatre operators are fortunate in being asked only to close at midnight and not being ordered to close entirely one day a week.

Actual Closing Proposed

Actual closing of theatres, it was learned, had been proposed as an emergency measure due to the fuel shortage created by the recent tie-up of transportation because of severe weather. Studies were made some weeks ago of the types of facilities which should be permitted to remain open as usual, those to be put on part time and those to be closed entirely in the event of a fuel emergency, and theatres were placed in the last category. However, when the situation did become critical, it was so late in the season that it was believed the "brownout" and curfew would be adequate to deal with the problem during the few weeks that remain before the advent of warmer weather.

Says Midnight Means 1 A.M. in War Time

Willard S. McKay, film attorney, declared yesterday that because War Mobilization Director James Byrnes's request specifies that places of amusement be closed at midnight such places could comply with the request by closing at 1 a. m. which, because of War Time, actually is "midnight."

Had the request been worded simply "12 o'clock" no other interpretation would have been possible, McKay said.

Indications within the industry yesterday, however, were that the effect of the order on theatres would be too slight to tempt operators to take advantage of this loophole, circuit executives said.

L. A. Rejects Curfew Exemption Measure

Hollywood, Feb. 20.—While circuit executives here awaited clarification of War Mobilization Director James Byrnes's midnight closing request, the Los Angeles city council today rejected by a vote of 11 to one Councilman Earl C. Gay's proposal that the council petition Byrnes to exempt Southern California on the ground that compliance with it will deprive swingshift war workers of their entertainment.

Ach!
those
timely
Warner
Bros!

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 37 NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1945 TEN CENTS

Five Films Are Outstanding In Ten Cities

'I'll Be Seeing You' Is Top Honors Contender

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

"I'll Be Seeing You," "Here Come the Waves," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "Dark Waters," and "Keys of the Kingdom" lead in MOTION PICTURE DAILY's estimated box office reports from 10 key cities, excluding New York City, for the week ending Feb. 22. Reports generally include estimates of Washington's Birthday business yesterday but the return of freezing weather to many sections of the country cut into grosses. The holiday delayed reports from several cities normally covered in the weekly roundup. Cities covered in this week's survey are Philadelphia, Chicago, Cincinnati, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Baltimore, St. Louis, Boston and San Francisco.

"I'll Be Seeing You" was an out-

(*Continued on page* 10)

Studios Collected $72,080 for 'Dimes'

Employes and executives of 18 West Coast studios contributed $72,080 to the 1945 March of Dimes drive, Nicholas M. Schenck's 'Dimes' committee reported here Wednesday. Fred S. Meyer was studio chairman; contributors included actors, writers, directors, technicians, general office workers, executives and others.

At the beginning of the campaign, honorary 'Colonels' were appointed to head each studio's collections with union and Guild representatives serving on the 'General Staff.' Leaders in the collections were 20th Century-Fox, with $15,605; M-G-M, $10,483; Paramount, $7,543, and Warners, $6,548.

Set McCarey-Butler-Crosby-DeSylva Unit

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 22.—Bing Crosby, B. G. DeSylva and David Butler are investors in Rainbow Productions formed by Leo McCarey to produce "The Bells of St. Mary's" and probably other films under the same corporate entity. McCarey is president; Butler, vice-president. RKO will release "St. Mary's," in which Crosby will star.

Loew's Switches To Fluorescents

Loew's which had started to install a headlight-like device to provide better theatre marquee lighting and conform with War Production Board 'brownout' orders, has switched in most theatres to fluorescent lighting, which is said to provide almost five times as much light on the permitted 60-wattage.

Theatres are using either four-15 watt fluorescents or three 20 watt tubes.

Seek Curb on Theatre Video

Columbia Broadcasting, in a brief filed with the Federal Communications Commission, in Washington, 'recommends' that no frequencies be assigned to the proposed theatre television or subscription radio services, because, it is charged, they would be made available to the public only upon payment of a fee and would utilize wire lines rather than radio frequencies used by broadcasters who provide the public with air service gratis.

CBS in the brief, filed in connection with oral arguments to be held before the FCC on Feb. 28 on the Commission's proposal for allocation of frequencies for television, frequency modulation and other radio services, urges concentration of effort by manufacturers and broadcasters to bring to the public "as quickly as possible," improved television both in black-and-white and in color.

Only the use of wide bands in the higher frequencies can provide television pictures with twice the detail standards, CBS maintains.

Midnight Closings Seen Continued Through V-E Day

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—High Government officials indicated here yesterday that the midnight curfew on all places of amusement will not be lifted before the end of the war in Europe at the earliest.

Their observations followed efforts made here during the past two days, largely by representatives of night club and cafe owners, to have a definite time period set for the duration of the curfew. The efforts had not been successful up to late today.

Inasmuch as most Washington authorities do not foresee an end of the war in Europe for several months more, indications are that the curfew

(*Continued on page* 12)

Curfew Given WMR Consent

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes, whose 'request' will darken the interior as well as the exterior of 'White Ways' throughout the country, disclosed yesterday that his action had been discussed with and received the approval of the War Mobilization and Reconversion advisory board, composed of representatives of the public, labor, agriculture, and industry, before it was announced.

Enforcement of the directive was seen today as lying largely in the hands of the War Manpower Commission, whose regional and areas offices have been given authority to

(*Continued on page* 13)

Loew's Details Stock Split, New Contracts

Stockholders Will Act At March 29 Meeting

The Loew management late Wednesday disclosed details of its contemplated plan of splitting common stock into three new shares for each share now outstanding, cited basic terms extensions for personal service contracts for executives, listed recommendations for a new board of directors, disclosed 1944 salaries of board members and officers, and gave further details of its employee retirement plan—all in a report sent to stockholders, and calling for action at the stockholders' forthcoming special meeting to be held here on March 29.

Aggregate 1944 remuneration paid

(*Continued on page* 10)

Companies Answer U.S. Decree Plan

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The five consent decree companies in a letter to the Department of Justice made public here Wednesday contend that some of the Department's criticism of Section 8 of the decree is unjustified and

(*Continued on page* 14)

11 Companies Have 189 in Backlog

With the second half of the 1944-45 season under way, 11 companies have a larger backlog of films completed and awaiting release than at any similar period in the last three years—a total of 189, *Motion Picture Herald* will say today.

Affecting distributors' plans for releasing product during the balance of 1944-45 are these factors: The raw shortage and freezing of the number of prints for each feature at 285; Continued war boom box office upsetting first run release by long holdovers; The uncertain fate of the consent decree and the recent Government motion for elimination of clearance between theatres not in competition with each other.

"Salty O'Rourke"

[*Paramount*]

Hollywood, Feb. 22

HOLD everything, folks—most especially an elastic section of playtime—for this return of Alan Ladd, complete with gun, to the type of stuff he is meant for and in a melodrama of the race tracks that is the best picture he has ever had to do it in. This would be a tip-topper without him. With him, it's dynamite.

Associate producer E. D. Leshin and scenarist Milton Holmes have taken the dynamic Ladd out of that nice antiseptic doctor-suit he wore in "And Now Tomorrow," well as it fitted him, and set him up in swagger toggery, with pockets big enough to house a rod without bulging, of a race track 'sharpie' under obligation to a gangster and ready to shoot his way out from under it if he cannot get out any other way. He is not the hired killer he was in "This Gun for Hire," which required his dying, but he has all the most marketable aspects of that character and yet lives

(*Continued on page* 13)

Personal Mention

POSTMASTER GENERAL FRANK C. WALKER, former president of Comerford Theatres, will address a Knights of Columbus banquet at Chicago's Palmer House on Sunday.

•

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, vice-president and general sales manager of M-G-M, will leave for the Coast Sunday to set a tentative line-up for the company's next block.

•

JOHN E. FLYNN, M-G-M's Western sales manager, with headquarters in Chicago, originally due here on Monday, has delayed his trip.

•

LT. HARRY SCHLAR, who before entering the Army was a booker at Paramount's Boston exchange, is now stationed in New York.

•

LOUIS W. SCHINE, partner in the Schine circuit, has returned to his Gloversville, N. Y. headquarters from a Miami vacation.

•

FRED LARNED, JR., son of Paramount's branch manager in Dallas, enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard on his 17th birthday.

•

J. ROBERT RUBIN, Loew-M-G-M vice-president and general counsel, is due back in New York on Tuesday from the Coast.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Eastern sales manager for Warners, left New York yesterday on a business trip through his territory.

•

ARTHUR SCHOENSTADT, president of Schoenstadt Theatres, Chicago, has returned from an extended stay in Arizona.

•

JOHN W. MANAGHAM, president of Film Classics of the Southeast, has returned to Atlanta from New Orleans.

•

HERBERT CROOKER, M-G-M Eastern publicity manager, will return from Hollywood on Tuesday or Wednesday.

•

WILLIAM R. FERGUSON, M-G-M director of exploitation, is due back here Monday from New England.

•

FRANK N. PHELPS, Warner Theatres executive, will return to the home office today from Boston.

•

DR. HERBERT T. KALMUS, president of Technicolor, is due in New York from Hollywood today.

•

BARNEY BALABAN, Paramount president, will arrive in Hollywood from New York Monday.

•

SAM SIRITSKY, local exhibitor, and MRS. SIRITSKY are the parents of a son, SERGE.

•

WILLIAM LEVY, Walt Disney executive, is in Boston for a few days.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, Feb. 22

THIS River of Wisdom today begins to flow toward its sea (bottom of third column, page two) with a true tale which even now must be gaining wide circulation.

It is about a famous star and a seven-digit production. Photographically, she was unhappy, which made the studio unhappy, too. Reassurances from management that all attention was being paid her carried no conviction. The star suggested resuscitating a print of an attraction which she believed displayed her at her best. It was done.

Scenes from it were spliced into rushes of the new film for purposes of contrast and also for purposes of emphasizing her contention. The lady was correct; there was a difference. It happens, too, that the cameraman on both pictures was the same man. That he was considerably embarrassed was obvious.

With dexterity, tact, diplomacy and great delicacy, a studio executive finally offered the solution by observing:

"But you see, Miss ....., what you forget is that the cameraman is ten years older."

■ ■

The vast concern of the independent producer over raw stock no longer is so vast. Clarification which this column already had suggested was required under the new WPB directive has been furnished by Warren Doane, long with Hal Roach and now Hollywood representative for the Government bureau, which has this vital problem in tow.

Keynote of the WPB attitude will be one of reason and understanding. Taken into full reckoning will be the status of the producer applying for film. It is presumed this can, and will, open a number of doors until now uncertainly closed.

■

These examples illustrate:

Mary Pickford has a considerable investment in "One Touch of Venus," even prior to production. When she starts making it, a couple of million will be earmarked for final negative cost. Yet she has no production backlog upon which to fall back under the literal interpretation of the new directive. The point at issue there becomes simple, and simply this: Is she to be ruled off because the strict mechanics of WPB's order so decree?

■

The Cagneys made "Johnny Come Lately" in 1943 and "Blood on the Sun" in 1944. By hard-rule interpretation, their allotment for 1945 would have been measured by their production records. But other properties have been contemplated and announced over a period of many months. The brothers have investments in story and film rights, which they feel are entitled to consideration and protection.

How much protection and consideration depend upon a thorough analysis of their situation in relationship to the overall raw stock problem and the pressing requirements of the armed forces. If the Cagneys do not get all the film they seek, they'll get some.

■

There are others, but these will serve. For instance, the producer who has a habit of announcing his whole stable of stories for "immediate" production will find his actual record of manufacture returning home to confound him. The WPB intends to take special cases, or the so-called border-line cases, one by each and to arrive at its findings on the basis of a fair appraisal of the facts.

At the same time, it does not intend allowing mushroom producers to invade an already tight situation merely to take advantage of a lush market and then withdraw when the ball is over. This is a form of protection for the established producer which seems reasonable under wartime pressure. In peacetime, there is another name for it.

■

Lend-lease provisions for raw stock, nevertheless, are arousing much interest. If film is going to Allied Nations for the direct objectives of war, no criticism is being entertained. If, however, part of these shipments is to wend its way into production which will compete with American films in post-war markets, the inclination here is to view such possibilities as unfair and detrimental to the home industry.

Therefore, it is not remote that this phase will be explored heavily in the interests of the precise lowdown and protestations formally launched if the second of these contingencies is established to be the truth.

NEW YORK THEATRES

SECOND WEEK
INSIDE THE RACKETS!
Mobland's Gats Blaze Again!
1st N. Y. Showing
"THE CHICAGO KID"
A Republic Picture
with
DONALD BARRY
OTTO KRUGER
TOM POWERS
REPUBLIC THEATRE
B'way, Bet. 51st & 52nd Streets

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Showplace of the Nation • Rockefeller Center
"A SONG TO REMEMBER"
PAUL MUNI • MERLE OBERON
Introducing CORNEL WILDE
A Columbia Picture In TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
William POWELL
Myrna LOY
'THE THIN MAN GOES HOME'
IN PERSON
KING COLE TRIO
BENNY CARTER and ORCH.

Paramount presents
Ray Milland
IN
"MINISTRY of FEAR"
in Person
Johnny Long
and his Orchestra
LOUIS JORDAN
and his
FAMOUS TYMPANY FIVE
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett
Raymond Massey
"Woman in the Window"
AN INTERNATIONAL PICTURE
—A RKO RELEASE

SAMUEL GOLDWYN Presents
BOB HOPE
'THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE'
in Technicolor
Continuous Doors open 9:30 A. M.
ASTOR
Broadway & 45th Street
Popular Prices
Midnight Show

WALT DISNEY'S
'The THREE CABALLEROS'
in TECHNICOLOR
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
NOW - - - Brandt's GLOBE

LAIRD CREGAR
LINDA DARNELL
GEORGE SANDERS
HANGOVER SQUARE
A 20th CENTURY-FOX PICTURE
On Stage!
MILTON BERLE
AND GALA LAUGH REVUE!
ROXY 7th AVE. & 50th ST.

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Tribute to Screen At Macon Premiere

MACON, Ga., Feb. 22.—The film industry's spirit of "public service, wartime resourcefulness and unmatched ability" to arouse enthusiasm in worthy causes were cited by Georgia's governor, several mayors and Army officials attending the world premiere of Warners' "God Is My Co-Pilot" at the Grand Theatre, here, last night.

Commenting on the public turnout for various civic events Tuesday and yesterday honoring Col. Robert Lee Scott and the film based on his career, Mayor Charles Bowden of Macon said, "It typifies how important the motion picture theatre has become as a community institution, while the thousands of dollars raised by the premiere for Army welfare work is the kind of good deed that has made this institution one of the most generous and most active agents of public service."

Additional complimentary expressions came from Governor Ellis Arnall of Georgia, Mayor William Hartsfield, Atlanta, General Thomas G. Hearn, Camp Wheeler and other prominent figures who addressed the premiere audience.

Personal Appearances

Ceremonies included personal appearances by Dennis Morgan, Alan Hale and Janis Paige at several Army camps and hospitals, a series of broadcasts over both local stations and a Coast-to-Coast network interview by John B. Kennedy with Col. Scott and a Junior League "Co-Pilot" ball in the Civic Auditorium. Almost every home in Macon, along with stores, were bedecked with decorations relating to the event. William K. Jenkins, president of Lucas and Jenkins circuit, said the public response gave evidence of the public's increasingly higher regard for the screen.

Warner stars Morgan, Hale and Paige left this morning on their return to the Coast. Mort Blumenstock's party from Warners' home office will arrive in New York tomorrow.

Canada Gets 4% of U. S. 16mm. Stock

TORONTO, Feb. 22.—Four per cent of the U. S. total output of 16mm film stock for the first quarter of 1945 has been allocated to the Canadian Government, it is announced by the Canadian National Film Board.

Approximately 9,200,000 feet of the U. S. total capacity of 230,000,000 feet of 16mm film will go to Canada for the first three months through the quota arrangement with the War Production Board in Washington.

3 Spaeth Lectures

Dr. Sigmund Spaeth chairman of motion picture music of the National Federation of Music Clubs, will give three lectures on "Music and the Movies" at the auditorium of the Museum of Modern Art, here, on Feb. 25, March 11 and 25. The lectures will be illustrated by old and new films showing the development of screen music and by musical excrepts. The lectures are under the joint sponsorship of the National Association for American Composers and Conductors and the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Nine Teams En Route On Red Cross National Tours

Nine teams of industry executives are enroute on nation-wide tours in behalf of the industry's Red Cross 'War Fund Week' for 1945, which starts on March 15 and runs through the 21st.

Ned E. Depinet has gone to the Coast to be joined there by Charles Skouras where they will address meetings at Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle.

Leaving yesterday were N. Peter Rathvon, national chairman of the drive, and William Scully; they will speak at meetings at Washington, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Cleveland; Robert Mochrie, who, with M. A. Lightman, will speak at Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis; Major Leslie Thompson, national coordinator, and Ben Kalmenson, who will appear at meetings at Boston, New Haven, Albany and Buffalo.

Also, Abe Montague and Si Fabian who will go to Detroit, Cincinnati and Indianapolis; Henderson M. Richey and Henry Reeves who will speak at Charlotte, Atlanta, and New Orleans; Robert J. O'Donnell and Tom Connors, scheduled for Memphis, Oklahoma City and Dallas; Francis Harmon, Carl Leserman and Martin Smith, for St. Louis, Kansas City, Des Moines and Omaha; and Herman Wobber and Rick Ricketson, who will speak at Salt Lake City and Denver.

Kalmenson, Thompson At Albany Meeting

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 22.—Ben Kalmenson, Warners, and Major Leslie Thompson, RKO, will address a luncheon-meeting of Albany territory distributors and exhibitors at the Hotel Ten Eyck on Sunday, to discuss the industry's annual Red Cross Fund Week, March 15-21. A total of 215 theatres in this district will participate in the drive. Ray Smith, Warner exchange manager, and C. J. Latta, New York State zone manager of Warner Theatres, are distributor and exhibitor chairmen, respectively.

Labor-Management Group Sets Plans

At a meeting held Wednesday in the office, here, of John J. O'Connor, vice-president of Universal and home office and employee campaign committee chairman for the 1945 Red Cross 'War Fund Week,' representatives of labor organizations, within the industry, discussed campaign plans with Major L. E. Thompson, national executive coordinator of the industry's campaign, and O'Connor.

The plan calls for complete cooperation between labor and management for the campaign. Only one campaign will be conducted within the industry and labor and management are jointly responsible for the success of that campaign. When the results are known they will be broken down so that all amounts collected from the various unions will be credited to the particular union concerned.

Labor Representatives

Representing the various labor groups were: Fred Marshall, United Scenic Artists of America, Local 829; Michael P. Connors, International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 30, 30A and 30B; Vincent Jacobi, Theatrical Protective Union No. 1; Morie R. Seamon, Treasurers and Ticket Sellers Union, Local 751; Oliver M. Sayler, Association of Theatrical Agents and Managers; Mortimer S. Rosenthal, American Guild of Variety Artists; George P. Gomperts, Screen Publicists Guild; Arthur Nickolaus, Chairman, Victory Committee, Motion Picture Technicians Local 702; William Feinberg, Musicians Local 802; and Sid Young, Screen Office and Professional Guild. Present on behalf of the Red Cross were Charles Light, Leon Climenko, William Marks, Kenn Rogers, John Falkenholm and William P. Mangold.

Connors in Atlanta For Red Cross Meet

ATLANTA, Feb. 22.—T. J. Connors, vice president and general manager in charge of distribution for 20th Century-Fox, arrived here yesterday to meet with Southeastern sales representatives and discuss plans for the forthcoming Red Cross drive.

Connors came here also to confer with Harry Ballance, Southern division manager; Paul Wilson, Southeastern branch manager, and the local sales force.

Skouras Will Attend ITOA Meet March 1

Spyros P. Skouras, 20th Century Fox president, has accepted an invitation by the Independent Theatre Owners Association, here, to be present at its next meeting March 1.

A 'frank discussion' of industry problems is scheduled. Independent circuit operators of the Metropolitan area have also been invited to attend.

Bell on ATC Committee

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Ray Bell, former Loew and M-G-M publicist, has been elected chairman of the publicity committee of the Air Traffic Conference of America. Bell, who left Howard Dietz's M-G-M staff two years ago, is director of public relations for Pennsylvania-Central Airlines. Prior to being promoted to Metro's home office, Bell was director of publicity-advertising for Loew Theatres in Washington under Carter Barron.

Eagle-Lion Names Sidney Comptroller

Arthur W. Kelly, president of Eagle-Lion Films, has announced the appointment of R. G. Sidney, who recently left United Artists, as head statistician and sales comptroller. Sidney begins his new duties immediately.

Sidney had been with UA for 17 years as statistician in the contract department, and at his resignation recently was presented with a gold wrist watch by his office.

20th Family Club Dance

Twentieth Century-Fox Family Club's Spring dance was held at the City Center Casino here last night. William Gehring, Western division manager and club president, and a committee of 12 were in charge of arrangements. Lew Lehr was master of ceremonies.

Coming Events

Today—Television Broadcasters Association, directors' meeting at headquarters, New York.

Today—Industry Red Cross Drive regional meetings at Boston, Washington, Detroit, Charlotte, Memphis, Chicago, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles.

Feb. 24—Industry Red Cross Drive regional meetings at New Haven, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Oklahoma City, Minneapolis, Kansas City, San Francisco.

Feb. 25—Industry Red Cross Drive regional meetings at Albany, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, New Orleans, Dallas, Milwaukee, Des Moines, Portland.

Feb. 26—Quigley Showmanship Awards luncheon, Hotel Astor, New York.

Feb. 26—Industry Red Cross Drive regional meetings at Buffalo, Cleveland, Omaha, Seattle.

Feb. 26-27—Paramount regional sales meeting, Philadelphia.

Feb. 27—Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith testimonial to Harry Brandt at Pythian Temple, New York.

Mar. 1—Producers Releasing fifth anniversary celebration for five weeks.

Mar. 1—Independent Theatre Owners Association meeting with Spyros Skouras, Hotel Astor, New York.

Mar. 8-9—Paramount regional sales meeting, Atlanta.

Mar. 13-15—Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners' annual meeting of trustees, Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles.

Mar. 14—Universal annual stockholders' meeting, Wilmington.

Mar. 15—Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, annual awards, Hollywood.

Mar. 15-21—Industry Red Cross 'War Fund' week.

Mar. 29—Loew's annual stockholders' meeting, New York.

Winter, Sumner Sell Two to Odeon-Rank

MONCTON, N. H., Feb. 22.—F. W. Winter and F. R. Sumner, longtime owners and operators of the Capitol and Empress here, have sold out to the Odeon-Rank group. For several years, the two houses were affiliated with Odeon and previously with Famous Players.

Also included in the sale are two lots in Moncton. The Kent was established here years ago by A. I. Garson, who recently became Maritime Provinces manager for Odeon-Rank and will supervise the Capitol and Empress, as well at the Kent. The Imperial, only other local theatre, is associated with Famous Players.

Sack Gets Hoxies

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 22.—Alfred N. Sack of Sack Amusement Enterprises, Dallas, has acquired negative and world rights to six Jack Hoxie Westerns originally produced by Phil Goldstone for Majestic release. Sack will reissue the series immediately on the states-right market.

IT TOOK 20 YEARS— AND SAMUEL GOLDWYN— TO DO IT!

WATCH FOR THE PRESS BOOK! USE IT! RED CROSS DRIVE — MARCH 15-21

BULLETIN—It took twenty years, and far more than that number of producers, to set records for Broadway's Astor Theatre, but it took only one week for Samuel Goldwyn's "THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE" to break them.

At the close of business on Thursday, February 15, the new Bob Hope starrer was thousands of dollars ahead of any other picture's box-office total for any week in the theatre's history. What's more, at the end of the sixth day, the previous record had been broken and every dollar of the seventh day's business was that much extra.

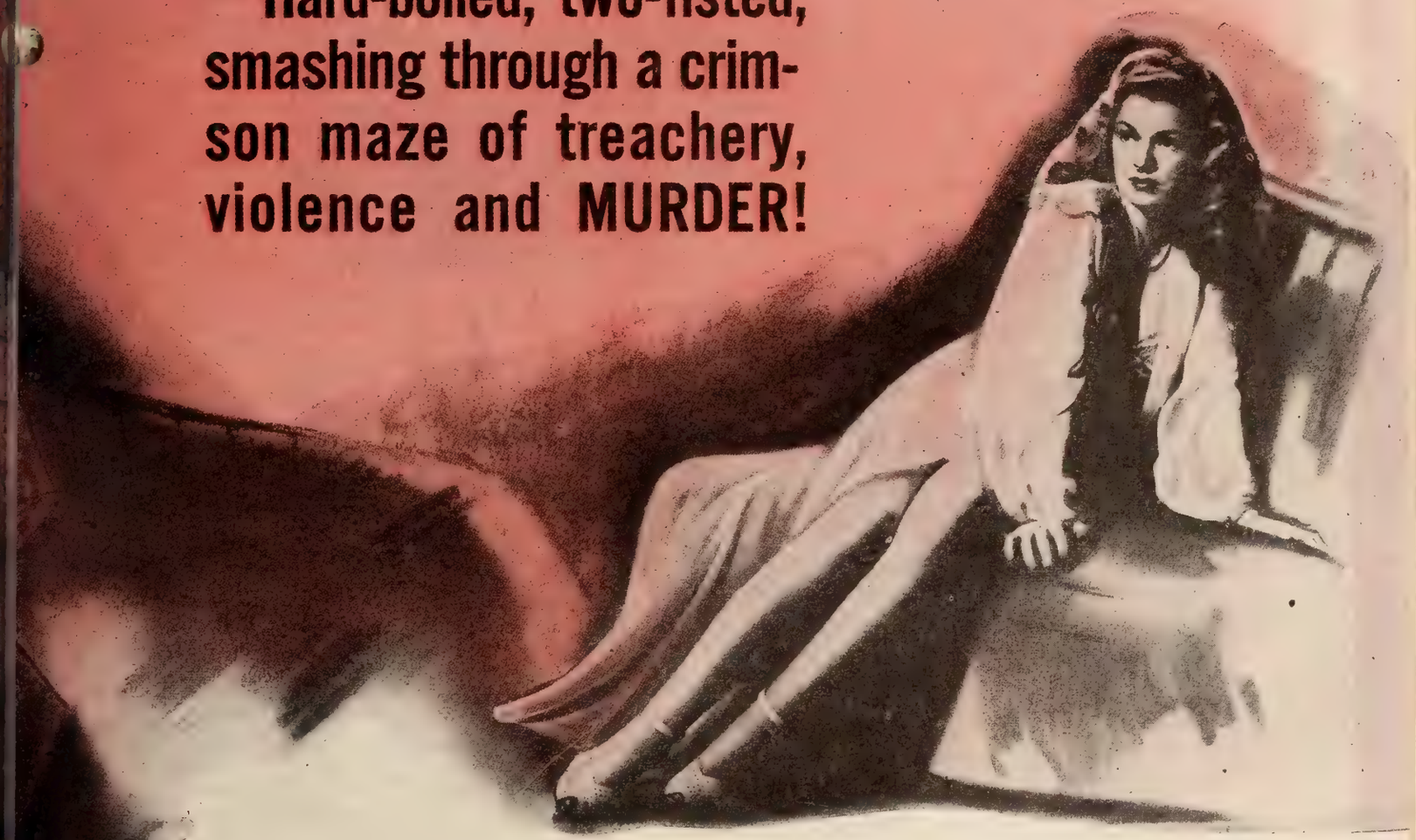
The remarkable business at the Astor puts "THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE" in a unique light. The Astor has long been the showplace of Broadway and the quality of its pictures has always been as high as, or higher than, that of any theatre in the United States.

"THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE" is released by RKO Radio Pictures.

ROUGH!
TOUGH!
TERRIFIC!
FORGET THAT FEELING... SHE'S GOT MURDER IN HER HEAR
RKO
RADIO
PICTURES
SIGN THAT PLEDGE CARD!
RED CROSS DRIVE — MARCH 15-21

THE NEW DICK POWELL!

—Hard-boiled, two-fisted, smashing through a crimson maze of treachery, violence and MURDER!



Dick POWELL · Claire TREVOR · Anne SHIRLEY

Murder, My Sweet

(Tradeshown and reviewed as "Farewell My Lovely")

OTTO KRUGER • MIKE MAZURKI • MILES MANDER • DOUGLAS WALTON • DON DOUGLAS

Produced by Adrian Scott • Directed by Edward Dmytryk

Screen Play by John Paxton

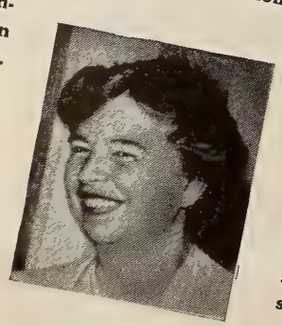
THIS IS MY AMERICA

By Eleanor Roosevelt

NOT long ago I saw a friend off at the Union Station in Washington, and afterward dropped in to the handsome room which was designed for the reception of visiting celebrities and is now a Serviceman's lounge. One of the young soldiers with whom I chatted offered to see me to my trolley car, but all the cars were so crowded I decided to walk back to the White House. I told him that if he cared to come with me I would point out the different Government buildings as we went along. When we arrived at the White House we were deep in conversation so I invited him to come in to lunch and finish our talk. As we went in the young soldier said to me, "Mrs. Roosevelt, this is something that could only happen in the United States—my dropping into the President's house just as I would at one of the neighbor's back home. That's the America that's worth fighting for."

That is my America, too. I have travelled in all the States and met Americans of all national backgrounds and from all walks of life. There is no place in the country where I do not feel at home, because America is a way of life as well as a nation, and we all share the same basic beliefs that tie every community with the whole United States.

My America has a past of which I am proud, but—what I am still prouder of—it has a future. Democracy never stands still. It is a constantly growing and developing condition and therefore it is a constant adventure. We are Americans, not because we have studied a certain form of government, or even because we have learned the Constitution and how to salute the flag and sing the Star Spangled Banner. We are Americans because we believe in the rights and responsibilities of the individual and know that we can all help to make our country the kind that we wish it to be.



My America is not only a nation of fertile farms and industries, great natural resources, mountains and rivers. It is a country where people meet to discuss their problems and find a way to better their own lives by taking part in the Government. My America is not only cities and small towns. It is forums where citizens can hear the great questions of the day discussed by authorities without fear of any consequences. It is public schools where young people share equality of educational opportunity regardless of race or creed. It is a country of churches and libraries and radio networks; a country where every man and woman can listen to candidates for office before election, follow their records and vote for their own leaders.

Here is an example of what I mean. I have often thought that sickness is the rock on which so many families are shipwrecked. People seem able to save for other things but few plan for sickness. It seems to be a blind spot in human nature. Now Americans are beginning to think of this common problem and talk about various ways of solving it. How it is to be done, no one seems to have completely decided. But the mere fact that it is being constantly discussed means that some day we will find the solution.

Not long ago two college students journeyed to my home in Hyde Park to take part with me in a radio program. One was born in Germany, one in Italy, and they were both naturalized citizens. They questioned me on various ways in which young people could be useful to a democracy. When the broadcast was finished I took the two students in to meet the President who was then entertaining several notables and we all chatted together amiably on these same subjects. Yes, This Is My America.

Here is page 27!

PAGE 27 is a highlight from the February issue of one of the most influential magazines in America.

It is part of a series appearing each month. Last month, Fannie Hurst pictured *her* America for the almost two million women who buy this magazine regularly at newsstands. In March, Maurice Maeterlinck is going to tell what *his* America means.

Read Mrs. Roosevelt's message. Like the whole series, it says proud things that should spur Americans on today.

We reprint it all here, so you will see it. Otherwise, you might not . . . because it is an example of the bigness that features a most surprising and famous magazine, one you probably do not read regularly. . . .

The magazine is TRUE CONFESSIONS.

Five Films Are Outstanding In Ten Cities

(Continued from page 1)

standing $32,500 above house averages in initial weeks in San Francisco, Cincinnati and Philadelphia. Breaking the opening day house record at the Fox Theatre in San Francisco it continued to draw terrific business completing a first week with an estimated $44,000 or $16,000 better than house average. It was $4,500 above in a big first week in Cincinnati despite heavy snow and cold weather over the weekend and was one of the Philadelphia leaders with $8,000 above.

"Here Come the Waves," a heavy $15,500 above in a lusty initial week in Philadelphia and big in a fourth week in St. Louis and a fifth week in Cincinnati, is proving to be a strong contender for box office honors.

"Meet Me in St. Louis" continues to be a box office champion throughout the country rolling up $20,400 above in five theatres in five cities. It is a leader in initial weeks in Buffalo and Toronto, outstanding in a third week in San Francisco and terrific in a ninth week in Philadelphia. It held up well in a second week in Cincinnati in the face of adverse weather conditions.

'Waters' Satisfactory

"Dark Waters" in initial weeks in three theatres in Cincinnati, Baltimore and Boston scored a satisfactory $5,500 above, being one of the leaders in Baltimore. "The Keys of the Kingdom" was $2,800 above in reports from six theatres in Philadelphia, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Baltimore and Chicago. It was big in initial weeks in Toronto and Baltimore and profitable on holdovers and second runs in Philadelphia, Buffalo, Chicago and Pittsburgh.

"To Have and Have Not" brought a heavy $85,200 in reports from extended holdover runs in Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, St. Louis and San Francisco, holdovers being second, third and fifth weeks. "A Song to Remember" continued to draw good business in a fourth week in Cincinnati and a fifth week in San Francisco, with $2,500 better than average being recorded for a second week in Buffalo on a dual.

"Hangover Square" was a leader in Boston with $4,000 above being grossed in two theatres. "For Whom the Bell Tolls" was a big $8,000 above in San Francisco for a first week at regular admission prices. "The Princess and the Pirate" was a heavy grosser in a 13th week in Chicago.

"The Woman in the Window" was a leader in Pittsburgh with $22,000 at the Stanley. "Objective, Burma" was profitable in a second week in Chicago. "The House of Frankenstein" scored neatly in Baltimore and Chicago and "Sunday Dinner For a Soldier" showed strength in Philadelphia.

Karloff in Pacific

Stage-screen star Boris Karloff has arrived in the Central Pacific to begin an entertainment tour under the auspices of USO-Camp Shows; while in the area, Karloff will work in conjunction with Capt. Maurice Evans of the Army's special services division.

Loew Details Stock Split, New Personnel Contracts

(Continued from page 1)

to officers and directors, exclusive of Louis B. Mayer, was $2,749,852, of which $2,707,352 was paid to officers, and the balance to directors who were not officers.

The company had 318 employees who received in excess of $20,000 in 1944, with 202 receiving in excess of $20,000 but not more than $50,000; 65 receiving in excess of $50,000, but not more than $100,000; and 51 receiving in excess of $100,000.

Personal service contracts to be voted on include those of Nicholas M. Schenck, presently under contract to Dec. 31, 1946, at a weekly salary of $2,500, plus two-and-one-half per cent of net profits of the company, with a limit of $200,000 total annually under the retirement plan. His proposed new contract calls for a continuation of his services to Dec. 31, 1949, at the same salary. The contract would then be extended for five years on written notice of the company before July 1, 1949, and acceptance by Schenck before July 10, 1949.

Edgar J. Mannix

Edgar J. Mannix's contract at $3,000 weekly, plus one-and-four-tenths per cent of profits, expires Dec. 31, 1945. The proposed new contracts would keep him with the company at the same pay, not to exceed $200,000 annually until March 1, 1954.

Alexander Lichtman's contract calls for $3,000 weekly, plus one-and-one-twentieth per cent of the profits, not to exceed $200,000 annually until Dec. 31, 1944. The new contract would hold him till March 1, 1954.

Benjamin Thau receives $1,750 weekly, plus seven-tenths of one per cent of the profits, also not to exceed $200,000, and his contract expires Dec. 31, 1944. The new contract would hold him until March 1, 1954, but would raise his salary to $3,000 weekly, a sum said to have been already approved by the Salary Stabilization Unit of the Treasury Department.

The report said that the board of directors believes the stock split-up "will broaden the market for the stock." Elimination of authorized preferred, none of which is presently outstanding, is also on the March 19 agenda.

Specifically, the board seeks to increase the present authorized 4,000,000 shares of common, of which 1,685,109 shares, with a par value of $44,609,050, are outstanding, to 6,000,000 shares, of which 5,055,327 would be outstanding, with the same par value.

Ten board members recommended to serve until the next annual meeting are: David Bernstein, vice-president and treasurer; Leopold Friedman, secretary and counsel; Eugene W. Leake, attorney; Charles C. Moskowitz, vice-president; William A. Parker, president of Incorporated Investors, Inc.; J. Robert Rubin, vice-president and counsel; Nicholas M. Schenck, president; Joseph R. Vogel, vice-president; David Warfield and Henry Rogers Winthrop.

Loew's report also listed 1944 salaries of each director, each nominee and company officer, with increases or decreases over 1943 salaries, as follows:

David Bernstein, $285,906, decrease of $47,528; Howard Dietz, $78,000, same; Leopold Friedman, $98,640, increase of $15,440; Sam Katz, $298,125, decrease of $72,013; Eugene W. Leake, $30,200, increase of $25,833; Alexander Lichtman, $268,094, decrease of $48,509; Edgar J. Mannix, $300,725, decrease of $72,013; Louis B. Mayer, $908,069, decrease of $230,922; Jesse T. Mills, $26,000, same; Charles C. Moskowitz, $115,700, increase of $11,700; William A. Parker, $6,400, increase of $400.

Also William F. Rodgers, $114,400, decrease of $1,000; J. Robert Rubin, $279,755, decrease of $38,172; Nicholas M. Schenck, $391,860, decrease of $120,530; Edward A. Schiller, $26,000, same; Louis K. Sidney, $78,000, increase of $1,250; Benjamin Thau, $200,114, increase of $2,074; Joseph R. Vogel, $97,500, increase of $19,500; David Warfield, $1,400, increase of $100; Henry Rogers Winthrop, $4,500, increase of $300.

Retirement Plan

On the retirement plan, it was explained, the normal retirement date for any employee is the March 1 nearest the 65th birthday (women, 60th), or the tenth anniversary of becoming a member of the plan, whichever is later. In order to help defray the cost of the plan, Loew personnel presently under written contracts, whose compensation is based in part upon net profits of the company, have agreed to limit, effective as of last March 1, the amount which might otherwise accrue to them under the contracts, so that in each case, the fixed salary, plus the compensation based on profits earned subsequent to that date, will not exceed the rate of $200,000 a year, except in the case of Louis B. Mayer, whose compensation will not exceed $500,000 annually.

It was also disclosed that during the fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 1944, Schenck purchased 9,896 shares of stock at $60 a share.

Goldwyn Plans Visit To France, Germany

LONDON, Feb. 22.—Samuel Goldwyn, wearing a colonel's uniform, has begun work at the U. S. Embassy here. He reiterated that he is representing the U. S. Foreign Economic Administration only but admitted he wishes to visit France and, "if developments are favorable," Germany.

Del Rio's 'Buyambilla'

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 22.—Dolores del Rio has just completed her most expensive picture in Mexico, "Buyambilla," which cost $300,000.

Chaplin Deportation Move Called Political

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 22.—In a statement to the press, Charles Chaplin said here yesterday that the recent move by Senator Langer to have him deported is part of a political persecution which, he claims, has been going on since "The Great Dictator."

'St. Louis' Record

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 22.—"Meet Me in St. Louis" will start a 10th week at the Aldine, here, on Saturday, setting a new record for any M-G-M film to play this house.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Feb. 22

PARAMOUNT has purchased "Lady Seventeen," original by Ladislaus Fodor, and has assigned it to Karl Tunberg for production. . . . Jeffrey Bernerd has signed Jerome Cowan, Reed Kilpatrick, Ruth Lee and Virginia Wave for featured roles in "Divorce," which he will co-produce with Kay Francis for Monogram.

•

Screen rights to the radio show, "The Callahans," have been purchased by Columbia from Fritz Blocki, the author. . . . Paramount producers Bill Pine and Bill Thomas have bought rights to "Nightmare," a psychological mystery by Cornell Woolrich. . . .

•

Wallace Fox has been signed to direct the next Inner Sanctum mystery for Universal. Its title is "Pillow of Death," and it will star Lon Chaney.

•

Remo Rufano has been engaged by M-G-M to manufacture a puppet cast for an important sequence in "Yolanda and the Thief," which Arthur Freed is producing. . . . Linda Darnell will have the top feminine lead in "Fallen Angel," which Otto Preminger is to produce and direct for 20th-Fox.

•

Joseph Cotten will have a starring role in David O. Selznick's Technicolor production, "Duel in the Sun." . . . Leon Fromkess, president of PRC, has made a deal with Sam Sax to produce "Why Girls Leave Home," musical starring Lola Lane and Richard Cromwell. . . Nina Foch will have the top feminine role opposite Chester Morris in "Surprise in the Night," next in Columbia's "Boston Blackie" series.

•

Director Walter Lang has been given a three-year contract by 20th Century-Fox. . . . Walter Tetley has been selected for a featured role in Constance Bennett's "Paris — Underground." . . . Stephen Longstreet has been signed by Universal to do a polishing job on the script of "Uncle Harry," which Jean Harrison is to produce.

•

Producer Carey Wilson is searching for a girl to be introduced in the key role in the next of M-G-M's "Hardy Family" series. . . . Gregory Ratoff will direct "Kitten on the Keys" for 20th Century-Fox. . . . Jack Carson is to be co-starred with Jane Wyman and Dennis Morgan in the forthcoming Warner film, "Time, Place and the Girl." . . . Cameron Mitchell has been given a new contract by M-G-M, and assigned a featured role in "They Were Expendable."

•

Herman Millakowsky, associate producer at Republic, will work on high-budget product hereafter. His first assignment under the new deal is "Strange Obsession," starring Vera Hruba Ralston. . . . Thomas Mitchell has been selected for an important role in the 20th Century-Fox picturization of "Leave Here to Heaven."

RKO Names Bender

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 22.—B. D. Bender has been appointed comptroller of the RKO Studios, succeeding G. B. Howe, recently resigned.

All that the name implies . . .

Supreme

NEGATIVE **Film**

Ansco

A DIVISION OF GENERAL ANILINE & FILM CORPORATION

BINGHAMTON • HOLLYWOOD • NEW YORK

KEEP YOUR EYE ON ANSCO—FIRST WITH THE FINEST

Curfew Compliance Arrangements Set

Byrnes' Edict May Continue Till V-E Day

(Continued from page 1)

may be aimed at absenteeism and inflationary spending as well as the specifically mentioned objectives of conservation of fuel, transportation and manpower.

All Areas Ready to Comply with Curfew

As it became apparent that the Office of War Mobilization "request" for midnight closings of all places of amusement, beginning next Monday, contemplated no exceptions, the several hundred theatres throughout the country affected, along with all other places of amusement, completed plans for a rearrangement of operating schedules which would permit them to comply with the request.

No protests were heard from any exhibition source up to yesterday. Circuit operators for the most part, reconciled to compliance with the curfew, were philosophical about it.

Some New York circuit spokesmen point out that late weekly showings do not ordinarily draw too well. In many cases, New York first-runs which have combined film and stage show policies, only the film is shown at the late shows and capacity business is rarely achieved. It is pointed out that war workers usually attend midnight and after-midnight shows with regular patrons invariably coming to the earlier shows. As one New York first-run manager pointed out, the public generally has always shown a willingness to cooperate with the curbs ordered by the Government. In view of the public goodwill which the industry has gained through its whole-hearted cooperation in the war effort, he pointed out that the public is bound to cooperate with the industry to make compliance with the new order easy, rather than a hardship.

Many New York houses outside Times Square ran midnight shows on Saturday nights. The late shows will be eliminated altogether and the schedule of others fixed so that the house will be empty by 11.50 p.m. In some cases it is planned to eliminate double features and fill in with shorts, only showing the important feature at the last show, and in other cases shorts will be eliminated completely and both features will run.

Plans of independent New York circuits for compliance, in addition to those reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Wednesday, follow:

Leo Brecher Theatrical Enterprises has only one, the Apollo in Harlem, running a midnight show on Saturdays which will be dropped. Century Circuit has about eight houses which have extra shows on Saturday nights which will be eliminated. No early showing will be given to make up the lost shows, since it is felt it would not be patriotic to do so, for it would mean an earlier opening and thus defeat the purpose of the measure. Cinema Circuit has three Times Square theatres which play a daily extra show to 2 a.m. These are the Anco, Harris and New Amsterdam. Their late shows will be eliminated.

Cocalis Not Hit

Cocalis Enterprises have no theatres affected by the ban, nor has Consolidated Theatres of New Jersey. Fabian Enterprises' Fox and Paramount in Brooklyn, which play midnight shows Saturday and Sunday, and the Paramount which also has a late show Monday, will be affected. Schedules will be reshuffled to take care of the Monday show, and the late shows dropped on the other nights. The Gramby, Norfolk, is another Fabian house which will drop its customary midnight show, Saturday nights.

The Five Boro Theatre Circuit now has some 15 theatres which are running somewhat over midnight in their daily presentations. These will have reshuffled schedules to enable an 11:40 closing. About 10 others have been having midnight Saturday shows which will be dropped. Prudential and Playhouses Operating Co. will reshuffle schedules to permit some 15 theatres to close before midnight.

Randforce Amusement Corp. has no houses on weekdays which operate after midnight, but the circuit does have about 10 theatres which had midnight Saturday shows, which will be eliminated.

Walter Reade Circuit has about six theatres with Saturday midnight shows, or Saturday previews, which will have to be eliminated.

Atlanta Little Affected By Curfew Order

ATLANTA, Feb. 22.—The midnight curfew will have no serious effect on theatres in this territory, although a few theatres sometimes have midnight shows, but these will be curtailed to conform with the regulation.

Milwaukee Single Bills

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 22.—All downtown theatres here, and probably neighborhood houses, will run single features over the weekends only in order to meet the midnight curfew.

H. J. Fitzgerald, president of Fox Wisconsin Corp. and state chairman of the War Activities Committee, said the order would eliminate midnight shows which downtown theatres have been running and would compel the first showing on ordinary double feature bills to be moved back to 6:30 P.M. instead of 7 P.M. starting hours.

The plight of late shift war workers who will have no recreational facilities after working hours was a matter of concern to Alfred Kvool, district manager of the Warner Theatre circuit. The "sandwich" bill, in which one feature runs between two showings of the main feature, may be used to shorten the program, he said.

L. F. Gran, general manager of Standard Theatres, including the Riverside, said the stage show, usually beginning at 11:10, would be moved back to 9:30 P.M.

Few Cleveland Houses Hurt by Curfew

CLEVELAND, Feb. 22.—The midnight curfew will be strictly complied with in this area, where several houses run regluar Saturday midnight shows. Only one, the Knickerbocker, plays midweek war workers' late performances.

Twin City Area Houses Readying Compliance

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 22.—Following issuance of the government's midnight curfew request, John J. Friedl, Minnesota Amusement Co. president, notified his theatres to arrange their schedules so that their shows' final breaks will be not later than 11:45 p. m.

The order will require the circuit to eliminate special Saturday midnight shows at a considerable number of houses. Such shows are advance pre-vues and, especially at the Lyric here, have been highly profitable.

Twin City independent neighborhood houses and many other theatres in the territory show double bills for "special late shows" Fridays and Saturdays and these always run well past midnight. Schedules will be re-arranged to bring them in "under the wire," making it unnecessary to drop them, it is announced.

Newsreel Theatre here, now open all night Friday and Saturday, will cease such operation. Harry Hirsch's Alvin, playing stock burlesque, will drop its Saturday midnight shows. Frequent stage shows-film combinations at the Orpheum here invariably have a running time extending past midnight, necessitating revision of schedules which will mean fewer performances and decreased grosses on week-ends, it is believed.

Memphis Accustomed To Curfew Measure

MEMPHIS, Feb. 22. — The midnight curfew will not cause any readjustment in theatre operations in the Memphis area. By city regulation all Memphis shows are expected to be over by midnight and have been since the beginning of the war. Neighborhood houses have at times run past midnight with double features, but only rarely. None of the first run houses has a double feature policy so schedules are more easily handled.

Shubert Is Only House Affected in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 22.—One St. Louis first run theatre, the Shubert, will be affected by the midnight curfew, as well as several second run and neighborhood theatres, including the Empress, Varsity and Norside. All announced they will cooperate by discontinuing weekly midnight shows for war workers.

Theatre owners generally here agree the curfew will not work a serious hardship.

No Protest on Curfew from U. S. Theatres

Great States Circuit Ready to Comply

CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—M. M. Rubens, division manager of the Great States Circuit, stated that the curfew will force out all Saturday midnight shows in the Northern Illinois towns where they have been held for years. In small towns, he says, theatres close before midnight on weekday nights to permit patrons to catch last buses and street cars.

Suggestions that late shows be replaced with morning performances receive only lukewarm receptions, as early-in-the-war campaigns to train more people to go to morning shows have met with little success.

Combination policy houses will benefit by the new curfew edict, it is indicated by vaudeville bookers here, as dozens of well known and costly acts and name bands will be released by night clubs no longer in a position to offer expensive floor shows. The talent surplus on the market will not only relieve the shortage in the theatre field but is expected to revert inflated salaries to prewar standards. Most acts and bands have been working eight months of the year in cafes and hotels.

Only War Workers' Shows Hit in K. C.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 22.—Many theatres in this area, possibly half, have had late Saturday night "owl" shows for years, even before the war. These will simply omit the last show Saturday night. The Regent and Downtown, Kansas City, operate to 2 a.m. two nights and to 4 a.m. most nights, chiefly for war workers. Two theatres in Wichita, Kansas, alternate to provide all-night shows for defense plant workers there.

These and other theatres having all-night shows one or more nights a week, as well as those having owl shows Saturday only, or Friday and Saturday, will comply strictly and promptly with the orders, without any effort on their part to obtain modifications, it now appears. An adjustment generally necessary will be of schedules when an extra long attraction would under normal operation extend the closing time past midnight.

Four Buffalo Houses Will Change Schedules

BUFFALO, Feb. 22. — The Wednesday night performance at Shea's Buffalo for second shift workers, the last show starting at 2 a. m. Thursday, and midnight shows at the Great Lakes, 20th Century, Mercury and Palace here will be cancelled. Other schedules will not be affected, however, because shows are over by midnight anyway. Meanwhile, the new 48-hour ban on gas for heating in amusement places was bein~ obeyed by theatres with gas heating plants. They included Mercury, Downtown,

(Continued on page 13, column 1)

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Schedules on Weekends Are Revised

(Continued from previous page)

Basil's Apollo, Varsity and Clinton Strand and Dipsons Star and Amherst. George H. MacKenna of the Basil group said his houses are still observing orders under the first gas conservation measure of Feb. 3.

San Francisco Sees No Benefits Resulting

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 22.—Theatre operators here predicted that War Mobilization Director Byrnes's order to close at midnight would have little effect on the local fuel, transportation, or manpower situation.

Joseph Blumenfeld, president of the California Theatres Association and co-owner of the Blumenfeld Circuit which includes all-night show houses, said he did not expect the order to aid the local manpower situation "enough to matter" but admitted it may release a few theatre workers.

Denver Operators See Curfew Hitting Grosses

DENVER, Feb. 22.—In compliance with the midnight curfew, Denver theatre men today anticipated a reduction in revenue through elimination of the midnight show and the necessity of reducing and rearranging schedules to close their doors at twelve. Harry Huffman of Fox Intermountain Theatres and others agree "It will mean considerable reduction in revenue and the setting up of new schedules." Dave Cockrill of the Denham says: "It will mean a reduction in receipts of $350 a week." Mark Alling of the Orpheum estimated a reduction of $200 to $400 weekly.

Indianapolis Expects Public Cooperation

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 22.—The midnight curfew ordered by War Mobilizer James F. Byrnes will eliminate four midnight shows catering to war workers here. The Indiana has had a Wednesday midnight show and Loew's Circle and Keith's have had Saturday night shows. Managers said that long bills frequently have gone over the midnight hour and this will have to be remedied by a slight revision in showing times. It will be up to the public to accustom itself to these changes, managers said.

Few Houses in D. C. To Be Affected

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—A few houses in Washington and vicinity will be affected by the curfew order, exhibitors here said today. Of the downtown houses the "Pix" and Earle theatres were the only feature houses with regular Saturday midnight shows, although the Capitol ran them whenever it had a picture it thought worth while.

Downtown exhibitors, however, said the order would necessitate a rearrangement of schedules to make sure that shows will be over by 12 o'clock.

Orpheum, Omaha, May Run Stage Show Last

OMAHA, Feb. 22.—The new curfew on entertainment will affect theatres here only slightly. Probably the biggest adjustment will be at the Or-

(Continued in column 4)

"Salty O'Rourke"

(Continued from page 1)

beyond his killings to share a clinch fadeout with Gail Russell. Anybody know how that can miss?

Leaving Ladd out of the conversation for a moment, Milton Holmes' story (he also wrote the screenplay) is the best piece of fiction about horse racing in America the screen has had in years. It concerns, with dozens of curves and switches not attempted here, a track-follower who owes a gangster $20,000, due in 30 days on penalty of death, and hires a crooked jockey to ride, under an assumed name, a horse he can buy cheap because nobody else can ride it. The pay-offs—there are three of them—are not the ones anybody expects, but they should pay off in box-car figures as to grosses.

Ladd is terrific in the picture, and has to be, because Stanley Clements, as the crooked jockey, writes a chapter in the history of histrionics all by himself. Alongside these, neck and neck, go William Demarest as a horse trainer, Miss Russell as a demure young thing, Spring Byington as her mother and Bruce Cabot as the gangster who'd a little rather bump off Ladd than not. Acting-wise, the picture is tight as a photo-finish.

With a swell story to tell and a snug cast to tell it with, Director Raoul Walsh added to his long string of successes a hit in more respects than need be particularized. His film flows like a handicap champion runs, staying comfortably off the pace until it rounds the far turn and then pouring it on—in this case the exact handling of the race is a thing to be witnessed, not reported—from there to the wire. The picture finishes lengths in front of the next best of its kind ever made.

Running time, 98 minutes. General classification. Release date not set.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

SOEG Victorious In Politics Case

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 22.—Upholding the right of unions to use funds for political activity, Superior Judge Henry M. Willis yesterday dissolved a temporary injunction obtained last November by dissident members of the Screen Office Employees Guild to restrain the union from using funds collected by assessment of membership to defeat Proposition 12. The decision held the dissident members not entitled to recover the amount of the assessment levied on them.

Going beyond the main point involved, the jurist said the California constitution contains no provision construable as preventing unions from campaigning for or against either legislative measures or political candidates. Referring specifically to a similar case concerning Cecil B. DeMille and the American Federation of Radio Artists, Willis said these cases make it clear that such matters are not properly the concern of courts but belong in the province of legislatures.

Curfew Order Had WMR Approval

(Continued from page 1)

cut employment ceilings to zero for places violating the curfew, but studies are being made of the possibility of changes in War Production Board procedures to permit the denial to such places of controlled equipment and repair and replacement parts.

The most vocal opposition to the order so far expressed has come from operators of restaurants which serve liquor and which are included among the establishments affected since night clubs are classified as restaurants.

Storm Hits Omaha

OMAHA, Feb. 22.—Whipped by severe wind, a tremendous snow drove down on Omaha yesterday, tying up traffic, closing schools and some businesses and slicing theatre grosses to record lows. Film deliveries probably will be delayed several days.

Allied Hits Linking Theatres With Bars

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Allied States in a bulletin made public here yesterday protested, in connection with War Mobilizer James Byrnes' midnight closing request to all places of amusement, "the growing tendency in official quarters to classify motion picture theatres along with drinking places, dance halls and sports arenas."

While not protesting the curfew itself, Allied said: "The implications of such classifications are grossly unfair, whether intended or not. Coupling motion picture theatres with booze joints, taxi dance halls and grunt and groan arenas would be unfair even if they were engaged merely in their peacetime business of supplying wholesome entertainment to the family trade.

"Considering the large amount of screen time devoted to Government-sponsored reels and the splendid work done by the theatres in selling war bonds and raising funds for the Red Cross and other relief agencies, such classifications show a woeful lack of appreciation," the bulletin declared.

Allied pointed out that the only after-midnight shows it knew of in member theatres are those conducted for service men and swingshift workers in war plants and one all-night operation undertaken at the request of the authorities.

Troops Abroad Will See Six MGM Films

Six new M-G-M pictures will be seen by 'GI Joes' in combat areas overseas shortly, in most cases probably in advance of showings to audiences at home, according to the Army Pictorial Service.

The six are: "The Valley of Decision," "Without Love," "The Clock," "The Picture of Dorian Gray," "Alter Ego," and "Keep Your Powder Dry."

Pvt. Henderson Killed

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 22.—Pvt. Lawrence Henderson, formerly of the Paramount exchange here, has died as the result of wounds sustained in action with the First Army.

Rural Houses See Little Interruption

(Continued from column 1)

pheum, which features stage shows as well as pictures. Manager Ted Emerson said that on the longer bills, films will be started early. Another idea is to open and close with the stage show.

William Miskell, Tri States Theatres district manager for the Orpheum, Omaha and Paramount, and Pinky McIlvaine, Brandeis manager, agreed that about the only difference would be in minor schedule changes. In the event of outstanding attractions, they will be started in the morning on Saturdays and Sundays.

Dallas Foresees No Curfew Difficulties

DALLAS, Feb. 22.—Midnight curfew order will have no effect on Dallas theatres. James Owen Cherry, city manager for Interstate houses here, says their theatres normally close before midnight, and in case of a film of extreme length which would run past midnight earlier openings are scheduled to conclude the evening's final showing well within the curfew, with time allowed for emptying the house. This procedure has been in effect for some time in Dallas theatres, including the independents.

No Serious Revisions Required in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, Feb. 22.—The midnight curfew will not affect theatres in this area sufficiently to necessitate any radical readjustments of operating schedules. The RKO Albee, Palace and Grand, and occasionally the Capitol here, have run Saturday midnight shows and these will, of course, be discontinued. A half-dozen subsequent runs which have offered Saturday midnight shows will follow the same procedure.

The RKO Grand, Columbus, and a few other houses which have been giving post-midnight shows on weekends for war workers will discontinue them.

Little Effect Seen on Oklahoma City Houses

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 22.—Only Saturday night previews and swing shift shows will be affected in Oklahoma. After-midnight swing shift offerings have not proven profitable except in the metropolitan area. Griffith Amusement Company officials said the order would cancel the heaviest single turnout on Saturday nights. Otherwise theatres here have been locked up at 11:45.

Plan Ending Show On Stroke of 12

Los Angeles, Feb. 22.—One plan of meeting the midnight curfew order, under consideration by a prominent circuit head here, contemplates starting the first show at whatever point in the film may be necessary to make the last show end on the stroke of 12.

Short Subject Review

"On Guard"

(*RKO Radio*)

One of the most powerful, exciting and gripping short dramas to come out of this war, made in cooperation with the Army Pictorial Service, "On Guard," one of RKO's "This Is America" series, shows the intrigue and attempts at espionage in America in 1940 and early 1941 by both German and Japanese agents. The film is a strong indictment against complacency even today, as it shows, in terse action, Nazi rallies throughout this nation and in South America, and the attempts to start a fifth column here long before we entered the war.

Perhaps the most exciting portion of the film shows Nazi agents meeting in New York. They were trapped by hidden cameras. J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, in an address, points out the dangers which besieged this land prior to the war. Running time 18½ minutes.

NBC Adopts a New Program Policy

National Broadcasting has adopted a new four-point procedure for all of its commercial network programs, according to an announcement by Niles Trammell, NBC president. First aspect of the new procedure is the discontinuance of the network's 'abeyance list' with time periods which become open and available to be filled by programs which the network considers most likely to meet the needs and wishes of the radio audience, regardless of seniority of date of application for time by the sponsor.

Replacement programs will hereafter be subject to acceptability. When an advertiser discontinues one program and wishes to replace it with another in the same period, the new program shall be subject to the approval of NBC: in the absence of such approval, the network will continue to reserve the right to make the period available for a more acceptable program submitted by another advertiser.

Third part of the new program is the denial of control to any artist or commercial program of a specific time period. Fourth aspect provides that effective May 1, no reference shall be made on any NBC network program to a program broadcast over another network.

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Companies' Answer to U. S. Plan Defends Clearance

(*Continued from page 1*)

that "some of the relief required would work havoc in the industry."

The three non-decree companies, Universal, Columbia and United Artists, made no reply to the Department's move for injunctive action to halt the granting of clearance between threatres charging substantially the same admission price and, instead, will present their views orally at the hearing scheduled for March 5 before Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard in U. S. District Court, New York, if called upon to do so.

In their letter to the Department, the five decree companies also revealed their intention to offer at the March 5 hearing affidavits or testimony by representatives of the industry "familiar with the facts" which will show, if necessary, the history, nature and character of clearance and the "inappropriateness and impracticability of the proposals for specific relief" made by the Department. No counter-proposals were advanced by the companies in their letter, a copy of which was sent to Judge Goddard.

The relief which the Government asks cannot be considered or granted off hand as a mere matter of law, it was asserted in the companies' letter.

Fundamental Issue

"Our fundamental issue is with respect to the granting of injunctive relief in dealing with clearance," the Department was told. We believe that on the whole arbitration is the most satisfactory method of solving clearance disputes which in their very nature are complex and depend upon a number of factors involving business judgment. Very often the rights of exhibitors who are not parties to the decree are vitally affected. It was an appreciation of these circumstances which formed the basis for those provisions of the consent decree which made clearance disputes subject to arbitration in the manner provided."

The defendants will not contest the authenticity of the decisions of the appeal board or object to a consideration of them by the court with respect to the question of the adequacy of the arbitration provisions of Section VIII," it was stated, "but will contest the Government's claim that these decisions are evidence with respect to a determination of the question of violation of any of the provisions of the anti-trust laws."

"We were surprised to find in the Government's memorandum the assertion that the arbitration provisions of the consent decree expired three years after its date and are now in effect only by agreement of the parties," the company counsel commented. "There is no doubt in our minds but that Section VIII of the decree is still in full effect.

"Substantively," they continued, "we disagree with the position taken in the memorandum regarding arbitration of clearance as provided for by Section VIII. We believe it has been successful from the point of view of all parties concerned, including the public, and that under Section VIII the appeal board has been able to and has dealt effectively with the various clearance problems presented to it and we believe that this section provides adequate relief with respect to clearance disputes."

Problems Vary

"As we have said, the problems are complex and vary according to local situations. By its very nature clearance cannot be measured with precision but must rest on the business judgment of exhibitor and distributor. The arbitrators by the decree have been permitted to review the business judgment of distributors and exhibitors and to determine whether or not the clearance granted in particular cases was too long in point of time or too extensive in area after weighing the several factors set forth in Section VIII. We will contend that it is apparent from the decisions that the members of the appeal board and the arbitrators have been assiduous in performing their duties and have provided adequate relief wherever this judgment differed from the business judgment of the distributors and exhibitors which they reviewed," the letter concluded.

Predicts Television Will Double Sales

"In television lies the principal hope that advertising can do twice the selling job in 1945 that it did in 1939," Milton J. Alexander, advertising manager of Allen B. DuMont Laboratories, told the Passaic County Electrical League at the Public Service Auditorium, Paterson, on Wednesday.

Alexander pointed out that present national production is at approximately twice peak peacetime business volume of eighty billion dollars. He predicted that most of the burden of holding postwar economy at this level would fall on advertising and therefore "some wholly new and potent advertising medium" is needed. "That advertising medium is television," he added.

Astor Atlanta Branch

ATLANTA, Feb. 22.—Astor Pictures, Dallas, has opened a branch here under the name of 'Jee and Bee.' John Jenkins is Astor president.

FCC to Hold Hearing On Radio Channels

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The Federal Communications Commission will check policies affecting the nation's 50,000 watt stations, beginning with hearings on May 9, to determine if there should be a change in methods whereby clear channels are allocated the biggest stations.

Reason for the hearing, is the disclosure that there are still large areas which receive no radio service during the day, and no adequate interference-free night service. It may authorize other stations to operate on more than the present 50,000 watt maximum.

Theatre Declared Hazard

MEMPHIS, Feb. 22.—M. A. Lightman, head of Malco Theatres and president of Memphis Little Theatres, is in search of a new home for his Little Theatres, here, since the Memphis Park Commission forbade the use of the 'Pink Palace,' classing it as a 'fire hazard.'

V-Day Film Is Set For Rank Houses

London, Feb. 22.—An eight and one-half minute film directed by Norman Walker has been completed for showing on V-Day in all Odeon and Gaumont-British theatres, by special order of J. Arthur Rank. It symbolizes the everyday Briton's reactions through the war's diverse perils and triumphs and incorporates a hymn and a prayer in the spirit of Rank's doctrine that humanity should not indulge in "wild craziness" on victory day. Rank hopes all theatres in the world will follow a similar plan.

IBEW Aiding CBS to Train Video Help

Columbia Broadcasting System, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, and New York University have developed a three-part, special 60 week course in the operation of television studio and transmitter equipment, open to technical employes of CBS.

The course is being given at CBS headquarters in New York by the Division of General Education and College of Engineering of NYU, under direction of Dr. Peter Goldmark, CBS director of engineering research and development department and Robert Serrell, member of CBS engineering operations, assisted by Mason Escher, technical staff member representing the IBEW.

The IATSE, also AFL, is planning a drive to organize television workers with a jurisdictional battle with the IBEW as well as the National Association of Broadcast Engineers and Technicians, an independent, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 8.

CBS will alter its weekly television schedule, effective Feb. 28, switching to Wednesday and Thursday nights instead of Thursdays and Fridays, with boxing exhibitions being made a feature of the Thursday evening schedules.

Chaplin Will Start 'Bluebeard' in April

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 22. — Charles Chaplin will produce, direct and star in "Monsieur Bluebeard," according to Alfred Reeves, Chaplin's general manager, who said that production will start late in April.

Will Study Television

Pierre Garigues, head of technical information for Radiodiffusion, Paris and Pierre Schaeffer, Radiodiffusion engineer, are expected to arrive here shortly under the auspices of the Office of War Information to study various aspects of television and radio broadcasting and to confer with NBC officials. They will be here for about two months.

Mantzke to Seattle

SEATTLE, Feb. 22.—Frank Mantzke, Milwaukee film man, has been appointed manager of the Monogram office here, succeeding Ralph Abbott.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Jan. 27	EADIE WAS A LADY Ann Miller Joe Besser Hal McIntyre and Orchestra C—67 mins. (6014) (Rev. 2/20/45)	(Special Release) MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS (Color) Judy Garland Margaret O'Brien M—113 mins. (512) (Rev. 11/1/44)	JADE MASK Sidney Toler D—66 mins. (417) (Rev. 2/20/45)	(Third Block) HERE COME THE WAVES Bing Crosby Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts M—97 mins. (4411) (Rev. 12/18/44)		THE BIG SHOW-OFF Arthur Lake Dale Evans C—70 mins. (410) (Rev.1/16/45)	(Special) THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE (Goldwyn) (Color) Bob Hope Virginia Mayo C—94 mins. (551) (Rev. 10/11/44)	(Jan. Release) (Special Release) KEYS OF THE KINGDOM Gregory Peck Thomas Mitchell D—137 mins. (514) (Rev. 12/13/44)	MR. EMMANUEL (British) Felix Aylmer Greta Gynt D—92 mins. (Rev. 1/4/45)	THE SUSPECT Charles Laughton Ella Raines Dean Harens D—85 mins. (9010) (Rev. 12/22/44)	TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT Humphrey Bogart Lauren Bacall D—100 mins. (410) (Rev. 10/11/44)
Feb. 3	I LOVE A MYSTERY Jim Bannon Barton Yarborough Nina Foch D—69 mins. (6024)	(Tenth Block) MAIN STREET AFTER DARK Edward Arnold Selena Royle D—56 mins. (514) (Rev. 11/28/44)	FOREVER YOURS Gale Storm C. Aubrey Smith D—83 mins. (Rev. 12/13/44)	DANGEROUS PASSAGE Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4412) (Rev. 12/21/44)	HIS BROTHER'S GHOST O—54 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) MARKED FOR MURDER O—58 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) KID SISTER Judy Clark D—56 mins. (Rev. 2/2/45)	THE TOPEKA TERROR Allan Lane Linda Stirling D—55 mins. (464) (Rev. 1/25/45)	(Special Release) BELLE OF THE YUKON (International) (Color) Randolph Scott Gypsy Rose Lee Dinah Shore C—84 mins. (583) (Rev. 11/29/44)			HER COME THE CO-EDS Abbott and Costello Phil Spitalny and Orch. C—88 mins. (9002) (Rev. 1/31/45)	
Feb. 10	SAGEBRUSH HEROES Charles Starrett O—54 mins. (6204) (Rev. 2/15/45)	MUSIC FOR MILLIONS Margaret O'Brien Jose Iturbi M—117 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/13/44)	CISCO KID RETURNS Duncan Renaldo O—64 mins. (429)	FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS (Color) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—158 mins. (4413) (Rev. 7/15/43)	SPELL OF AMY NUGENT (English) Derek Farr D—63 mins. (Rev. 2/15/45)	GREAT STAGECOACH ROBBERY Wild Bill Elliot Bobby Blake O—56 mins. (3317) (Rev. 2/21/45)	(Special Release) THE THREE CABALLEROS (Disney) (Color) M—71 mins. (591) (Rel. 12/12/44)	(Feb. Release) (Special Release) A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN Dorothy McGuire Joan Blondell D—128 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/24/45)		HER LUCKY NIGHT Andrews Sisters Martha O'Driscoll M—63 mins. (Rev. 1/29/45)	
Feb. 17	SING ME A SONG OF TEXAS Rosemary Lane Hal McIntyre Orch. M—66 mins. (6221)	BLONDE FEVER Philip Dorn Mary Astor C—69 mins. (516) (Rev. 11/28/44)	GUN SMOKE Johnny Mack Brown O—57 mins. (455) (Rev. 1/19/45)	PRACTICALLY YOURS Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray C—90 mins. (4414) (Rev. 12/15/44)	FOG ISLAND Lionel Atwill George Zucco (Rev. 2/15/45) D	SONG FOR MISS JULIE Shirley Ross Cheryl Walker M—69 mins. (411) (Rev. 2/20/45)	(Third Block) WHAT A BLONDE Leon Errol Elaine Riley C—71 mins. (511) (Rev. 1/29/45)	HANGOVER SQUARE Laird Cregar Linda Darnell D—77 mins. (516) (Rev. 1/17/45)		THE HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN Boris Karloff John Carradine D—71 mins. (9013) (Rev. 12/22/44)	
Feb. 24	TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT (Color) Rita Hayworth Janet Blair Lee Bowman M—92 mins. (Rev. 1/25/45)	THIS MAN'S NAVY Wallace Beery James Gleason D—100 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/4/45)	DILLINGER Elisha Cook Jr. Lawrence Tierney D—70 mins.	DOUBLE EXPOSURE Chester Morris Nancy Kelly D—63 mins. (4415) (Rev. 12/21/44)	HOLLYWOOD AND VINE James Ellison Wanda McKay D	SHERIFF OF CIMARRON Sunset Carson Linda Stirling O—55 mins. (454)	THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE Dorothy McGuire Robert Young Herbert Marshall D—92 mins. (515) (Rev. 2/14/45)	THUNDERHEAD SON OF FLICKA Roddy McDowall Preston Foster O—78 mins. (518) (Rev. 2/1/45)		THE MUMMY'S CURSE Lon Chaney D—60 mins. (9036) (Rev. 12/22/44)	OBJECTIVE, BURMA Errol Flynn D—144 mins. (411) (Rev. 1/26/45)
Mar. 3	LEAVE IT TO BLONDIE Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C	BETWEEN TWO WOMEN Van Johnson Lionel Barrymore D—81 mins. (518) (Rev. 12/21/44)	GI HONEY-MOON Gale Storm Peter Cookson D—70 mins. (406)	(Fourth Block) BRING ON THE GIRLS (Color) Veronica Lake Sonny Tufts Eddie Bracken M—92 mins. (4416) (Rev. 2/19/45)	THE MAN WHO WALKED ALONE Dave O'Brien Kay Aldridge O—74 mins. (Rev. 2/2/45)		HAVING WONDERFUL CRIME George Murphy Pat O'Brien Carole Landis C—70 mins. (514) (Rev. 2/16/45)	CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE Lloyd Nolan Michael O'Shea D—67 mins. (519) (Rev. 2/15/45)	(To be released during the period covered by this chart, but definite dates not set) BREWSTER'S MILLIONS Edward Small Prod. DELIGHTFULLY DANGEROUS Charles R. Rogers Prod. 93 mins. IT'S IN THE BAG Jack Skirball Prod. 87 mins. (Rev. 2/9/45) HOLD AUTUMN IN YOUR HAND Loew-Hakim Prod. THE GREAT JOHN L Bing Crosby Prod. 96 mins. SPELLBOUND Selznick International Prod. 2000 WOMEN G. C. F. Prod. BEDSIDE MANNERS Andrew Stone Prod. COLONEL BLIMP G. C. F. (Color) 148 mins. (Rev. 6/9/43)	SUDAN (Color) Maria Montez Jon Hall Turhan Bey D	ROUGHLY SPEAKING Rosalind Russell Jack Carson D—128 mins. (412) (Rev. 1/31/45)
Mar. 10	A SONG TO REMEMBER (Color) Paul Muni Merle Oberon Cornel Wilde D—113 mins. (Rev. 1/18/45)	NOTHING BUT TROUBLE Laurel and Hardy C—69 mins. (519) (Rev. 12/5/44)	DOCKS OF NEW YORK East Side Kids C—62 mins. (410) (Rev. 2/21/45)	THE UNSEEN Joel McCrea Gail Russell Herbert Marshall D—81 mins. (4417) (Rev. 2/20/45)	SHADOWS OF DEATH Buster Crabbe O (Rev. 1/25/45)		PAN-AMERICANA Phillip Terry Audrey Long Robert Benchley D—84 mins. (513) (Rev. 2/21/45)			THE HOUSE OF FEAR Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce D	HOTEL BERLIN Faye Emerson Helmut Dantine Raymond Massey D—(413)
Mar. 17	THE CRIME DOCTOR'S COURAGE Warner Baxter Hilary Brooke D	KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY Lana Turner Laraine Day D 123 mins. (520) (Rev. 2/15/45)		SALTY O'ROURKE Alan Ladd Gail Russell D—100 mins. (4418)	STRANGE ILLUSION Jimmy Lydon Warren William D—87 mins. (Rev. 2/21/45)		BETRAYAL FROM THE EAST Lee Tracy Nancy Kelly D—82 mins. (512) (Rev. 2/19/45)				
Mar. 24	A GUY, A GAL AND A PAL Ross Hunter Lynn Merrick Ted Donaldson D			HIGH POWERED Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4419) (Rev. 2/21/45)			(Special Release) THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW Edward Robinson Joan Bennett D—99 mins. (582) (Rev. 10/10/44)				
Mar. 31	ROUGH RIDIN' JUSTICE Chas. Starrett Betty Jane Graham						(Special Release) IT'S A PLEASURE International (Color) Sonja Henie Michael O'Shea 90 mins (584)				
April 6	ROUGH, TOUGH AND READY Victor McLaglen Chester Morris D										
	ESCAPE IN THE FOG Otto Kruger Nina Foch D										
	ROCKING IN THE ROCKIES Three Stooges Mary Beth Hughes O										

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama. (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily Review Date.

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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 38 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1945 TEN CENTS

50 Bills, Yet Industry Does Well in States

Unscathed So Far in 33 State Legislatures

By BERTRAM F. LINZ

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Several measures which would have adversely affected exhibitors have been defeated in the State legislatures and none have been enacted so far this year, it is disclosed in a survey made by MOTION PICTURE DAILY of the activities of 33 state legislatures which met this year.

The survey revealed that a large number of bills have been introduced in state capitols which would affect the film industry in common with all others, but that the toll of measures directly affecting exhibitors numbers something less than 50.

On the credit side of the ledger, the Colorado legislature passed, and

(*Continued on page* 10)

M. J. Mullin Is First Pinanski Appointee

BOSTON, Feb. 25.—Samuel Pinanski, national chairman for the industry in the forthcoming Seventh War Loan drive, announces that his first appointment to be made for the drive is that of Martin J. Mullin, his circuit partner, as state chairman for the industry in Massachusetts. Mullin will fill this post in addition to his war-service task as chairman of the War Activities Committee, New England theatres division, involving some 1,000 theatres.

As state chairman, Mullin will head

(*Continued on page* 7)

Red Cross Pledges At 96% of 1944's

Ninety-six per cent of all theatres that participated in Red Cross War Fund Week last year have already pledged their support to the 1945 campaign, March 15-21, according to reports received here at national industry headquarters. Current pledges, from 32 cities, total 10,718.

With this start, and as a result of

(*Continued on page* 3)

NLRB Weighs Extras' Case

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Representatives of the Motion Picture Producers Association and the Screen Actors Guild, here from Hollywood, have asked the National Labor Relations Board to draw a definite line of demarkation between an extra and an actor and to clarify the collective bargaining authority of the Screen Players Union, also Hollywood.

The request was made at a hearing called by the NLRB in response to three petitions filed by the MPPA and the SAG calling for a reconsideration of its action in certifying the SPU as the bargaining agency for extras, and those playing bits and parts.

Alfred Wright, representing the

(*Continued on page* 7)

Eyssell QP Guest At Awards Lunch

Gus Eyssell, managing director of Radio City Music Hall, will be guest of honor at the 11th annual Quigley Showmanship Awards judging today, at the Astor Hotel. Martin Quigley will be host at a luncheon to 55 executives from exhibition, distribution and advertising, following the judging.

Among out-of-town judges who have indicated they will attend, are Louis W. Schine, Schine Circuit, Gloversville, N. Y.; Ed Fay, Fay's Theatres, Providence; John Harris,

(*Continued on page* 7)

Allied Says Theatre Public Saves Fuel

Washington, Feb. 25—Allied States Association of Motion Picture Exhibitors has recommended to its regional leaders that a survey be made in a representative number of theatres to ascertain how many patrons turn down their furnace and turn off their lights in their homes, before leaving for the theatre. It is Allied's contention that the tangible evidence of such savings would be so vast, as to preclude any further Government attempt to close theatres to save fuel and electricity.

'Lab' Workers Ask 5% Fund

Proposals of IATSE Motion Picture Laboratory Technicians Local No. 702 for a new contract for some 1,800 laboratory workers in about 20 film processing companies in this area, presently being discussed with representatives of the laboratories by the union's negotiating committee, include demands that the companies set aside a sum equivalent to five per cent of their payrolls weekly to provide retirement benefits and other benefits for the workers.

Contracts between Local 702 and the laboratories expire March 10. Negotiations for a new contract started here Feb. 15 with the next meeting to be held at the Paramount home office this morning.

WPB Classifying Essential Users of Coal; Theatres' Position Uncertain

Washington, Feb. 25.—The War Production Board is classifying consumers of coal according to their essentiality to the war effort but officials of that agency and of the Solid Fuels Administration on Friday expressed doubt that any action toward instituting a prority system would be taken this winter, barring a critical emergency.

The studies preliminary to the drafting of a classification list, which is not yet completed, were initiated by WPB at the request of Fuel Administrator Ickes, who pointed out that there would be a net deficit of 30,000,000 tons in this year's coal supply. At the Solid Fuels Administration it was indicated that the list may be used next winter, when the situation is expected to be worse than it has been this season. But there is nothing in the present situation to necessitate its immediate use over any large area.

WPB officials, pointing out that the work of compiling the list is far from completed, said they had no idea where theatres would stand, but in other quarters it was said top priorities would go to war plants and householders and all other consumers would be relegated to secondary positions.

May Liberalize Curfew Order In War Cities

WMC Is Ready to Act if Theatres Press Issue

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—An interpretation of the amusement curfew order which may permit the continued operation of "night-shift" theatres in war centers may come out of current considerations of the War Manpower Commission as to the exceptions to be made to the order of War Mobilization Director, James F. Byrnes, which has been turned over to it for enforcement.

The problem of these theatres is one of the most difficult confronting the WMC, in view of the fact that early in the war it appealed to exhibitors and proprietors of bowling alleys and other places of recreation to remain open for the benefit of late-shift war workers. It was learned that while the Office of Civilian Requirements is ready to support any move for con-

(*Continued on page* 10)

Weekend Singles to Meet Curfew Edict

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—The possibility of neighborhood theatres switching from double to single features Saturdays and Sundays to meet the midnight curfew was seen here at the weekend, as heads of the three leading local theatre circuits—Balaban and Katz, Warner Bros., and Essaness Theatres—scheduled a meeting to discuss the matter. It is understood that

(*Continued on page* 10)

Doyle of 20th-Fox Is Freed in Manila

Arthur Doyle, Far Eastern representative of 20th Century-Fox, who was taken prisoner by the Japs in the Philippines shortly after Pearl Harbor, was among the Americans recently released from Santo Tomas Prison in

(*Continued on page* 10)

Reviewed Today

Review of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" appears on page 6; "Delightfully Dangerous," page 7.

Personal Mention

BARNEY BALABAN, Paramount president, EDWIN WEISL, Paramount board member, their wives, and BALABAN'S daughter, JUDITH, left New York Friday for a three-week Coast trip.

•

JACK H. HARRIS, former manager of the Mayfair and Pennypack theatres, Philadelphia, has been made a first lieutenant in the AUS. His father is BEN HARRIS, manager of the American Film Co.

•

THOMAS E. RODGERS, youngest son of WILLIAM F. RODGERS, Loew vice-president and general sales manager, has been inducted into the Marines. The other son, WILLIAM F., JR., is in the Army.

•

LARRY STEIN, Warner Theatres' Midwest advertising-publicity director, has been appointed to the executive committee of the B'Nai B'rith, Adolph Krause Lodge, in Chicago.

•

CHARLES NEWBERY, 20th Century-Fox India and Free China managing director, will arrive in New York today from the Coast.

•

JACK COHN, Columbia vice-president, will leave the Coast for Phoenix today for a 10 day stay and then proceed to New York.

•

MALCOHM KINGSBERG, RKO Theatres vice-president and treasurer, returned to New York from a vacation Friday.

•

GERTRUDE BUNCHEZ, publicity director of Loew's Baltimore, was a New York visitor over the weekend.

•

LEO SAMUELS, Disney foreign manager, will leave New York March 13 for a 10-week tour of Latin America.

•

E. K. O'SHEA, M-G-M Eastern sales manager, will leave New York March 4 for a Florida vacation.

•

JACK P. BYRNE, M-G-M Detroit manager, will be at his home there for two weeks due to illness.

•

CAPTAIN VOLNEY PHIFER of M-G-M's exploitation staff is the father of a girl.

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FRED MEYERS, Universal Eastern sales manager, will be in Buffalo today.

•

ANDREW STONE, United Artists producer, will arrive in New York from Hollywood today.

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DAVID L. LEWIS, M-G-M Brazilian manager, has returned to Rio from New York.

•

JOEL LEVY, Loew Theatres out-of-town booker, is about to become a grand-pappy.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

DAVID O. SELZNICK is making a modest claim in currently observing the 10th anniversary of the Selznick International trade mark. True, it is Selznick's 22nd year in motion picture production — 22 years since the time, when still an undergraduate at Columbia, he hired Luis Angel Firpo, a contender at the time for the world's heavyweight crown, for $1,000 for a day's work which, when photographed became a two-reeler entitled "Will He Beat Dempsey?" and later was sold for $3,500. That was the start of Selznick's production career. Subsequently he went to Hollywood and became a reading assistant to the MGM studio story head, and successively became assistant story editor, story editor, head of the writers' department, producer's assistant, then a producer of Tim McCoy Westerns at MGM. In 1928, he went to Paramount as assistant to B. P. Schulberg and later became an associate producer. In 1931, when 29 years old, Selznick went to RKO as vice-president in charge of production. While there he inaugurated the unit production system and program of star development.

•

Returning to Metro in 1933 as vice-president in charge of his own production unit, Selznick had a two-year record of outstanding pictures to his credit when he established Selznick International in 1935. He produced seven top flight pictures before starting "Gone with the Wind" in 1939, and produced "Intermezzo" and "Rebecca" while "GWTW"" was in preparation. "GWTW," of course, won the Academy Award for 1939 and "Rebecca" in 1940.

The Irving Thalberg Memorial Award for "the most consistent high quality of production" was given to Selznick every year from 1939 to this one with the exception of 1942 when he was inactive. In 10 different years the nation's exhibitors voted Selznick the number one producer of box office hits in *Fame's* annual poll. Other awards too numerous to mention here have gone to him or to pictures of his.

Late in 1942 Selznick acquired an ownership interest in United Artists and has released his "Since You Went Away," and the new "I'll Be Seeing You" since. "Spellbound," his next, is scheduled for March release as an anniversary picture. Four others are slated for the coming season. They are: "So Little Time," "Duel in the Sun," "The Scarlet Lily" and "Notorious."

•

Contributing much to Selznick's success as a producer have been his recognition of story values, his discernment and good judgment in grooming and casting players, his own writing contributions to his screen plays and his judgment in cutting.

Selznick makes no pretensions of being a veteran in observing now the 10th anniversary of the Selznick International trade mark. That may be due to the fact that a man in his early forties is disinclined to regard himself as a business patriarch even in an industry as youthful as this, where the past, however successful, is dimmed by the rosier promises of its future. In any event, in Selznick's case, it cannot be due to any wish of his to disregard the accomplishments of his first 12 production years which were sufficient in themselves to sustain for long a distinguished reputation.

In the last 10 years, however, Selznick surpassed that record, with "GWTW" and "Rebecca" as high spots of his decade as an independent. Any producer might well have rested on his laurels after those, certain of a permanent place in production annals. But Selznick has gone on from there, delivering his currently outstanding product and shaping plans for more of the same calibre to come.

•

He has blazed new paths in production in the past and in so doing has contributed much to the stature of the whole industry. At present he is reported to be examining into distribution methods which, according to reports, he views as being dated in many vital respects. He is in a position to test his views and, should they be sustained, his may be a contribution to the distribution end of the industry which may rank in stature with his production achievements.

Selznick is to be congratulated not only on his present anniversary observance but as well for his questioning and appraising of the industry *status quo*. It is from such as he that milestones are encountered and left behind, new ones approached.

Service for Thomas, Former WB Counsel

Funeral services for Abel Cary Thomas, former secretary and general counsel of Warners, were held at the weekend. Thomas died at his home in New York last Wednesday.

A graduate of Yale, and of the Harvard Law School, Thomas started as a reported on the New York *Herald Tribune* and later was associated with the late Sam Warner in the commercial development of talking pictures and the establishment of Warner theatres. He had also been legal adviser to the late Henry W. Savage, theatrical producer, and was an author as well. He is survived by three sisters.

Davis, Judge in Fox Bankruptcy, Dies

NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 25.—John Warren Davis, Sr., retired judge of the Third United States Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, died at the Norfolk Hospital here at the age of 77 late last week.

Davis, in March, 1939, was named in a Federal grand jury indictment with William Fox, film executive and Morgan S. Kaufman on charges of criminal conspiracy to obstruct justice and defraud the United States on a charge of growing out of an action in bankruptcy by Fox in his court.

Cody D. Stout, Sixth Metro-ite to Be Killed

Lt. Cody D. Stout, formerly in M-G-M's Charlotte branch, has been reported killed, according to a War Department communication to his family. This brings to six the number of M-G-M exchange employes killed in action, the others being Pvt. Arthur T. Goldsmith, Los Angeles; Drew L. King, Charlotte; Lt. Lawrence Schmitt, Cincinnati; Lt. Leslie Zubri; Lt. Dan Bruce, Atlanta.

Services for Tess Slessinger Are Held

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25. — Funeral services were held at Forest Lawn Friday for Tess Slessinger, 39, screen writer, who died here last Wednesday. Her last script was "A Tree Grows In Brooklyn" for Darryl Zanuck.

Born in New York, she gained recognition in the short story field before coming to the Coast a decade ago. Her husband, Frank Davis, and two children survive.

Hirschhorn Dies

Funeral services were held at Jewish Memorial Chapel in Brooklyn yesterday for William Hirschhorn, 24, formerly an associate publicist in the Universal home office publicity department. Hirschhorn died of a heart attack at his home last Friday.

Reginald Barker Dies

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25. — Reginald Barker, 58, retired director, died of a heart attack at his home here Friday.

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Blue Web Launches Television Shows

SCHENECTADY, Feb. 25.—The Blue Network launched its regular television broadcasting schedule on the facilities of General Electric's station WRGB here tonight with its radio program "Ladies, Be Seated."

Seventeen members of the trade and daily newspaper press accompanied the Network executives and the cast of "Ladies Be Seated" here from New York. With Mark Woods, Blue network president, and Adrian Samish, national director of programs and production, the group were guests of General Electric at dinner and witnessed the rehearsal of the show in the television studio at WRGB, and the telecast.

By agreement with GE, "Ladies Be Seated" will be presented to television audiences every Sunday night and another Blue web radio show, "On Stage, Everybody," will originate weekly from the DuMont television studio in New York on Tuesday nights.

Among press representatives who accompanied the group were: Ben Kaplan, *Providence Journal;* Elizabeth Forstling, *Newsweek;* Tom Kennedy, *New York Times;* Arnold Blum, *PM;* William Formby, *Motion Picture Herald;* Milton Livingston, MOTION PICTURE DAILY; Thor Krogh, *Television Magazine;* Bruce Robertson, *Broadcasting;* Marty Shrader, *Billboard*; Fred Stengel, *Variety;* M. H. Shapiro, *Radio Daily;* Ben Kaufman, *Hollywood Reporter.*

1st Wartime Video Show in England

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The first British wartime television show was held here Friday from Alexandra Palace, peacetime television headquarters, and was on a closed circuit for security reasons in view of the danger of a short-wave beam's guiding enemy bombers. The show was put on exclusively for the benefit of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Conference in session here; many members from the colonies have never seen television before.

J. Arthur Rank's preeminence here was again emphasized by virtue of the principal items being a Gaumont British newsreel and a pictorial interview with Phyllis Claver, Gainsborough star.

The conference's delegates were impressed at the evidence of Britain's prewar television lead and adopted resolutions on the urgency for the British Commonwealth to attain a similar lead in the postwar with empirewide cabled televised diffusions from a London headquarters. It is significant that the conference leans to the view that films are momentarily the most satisfactory television medium.

D. A. Doran to Leave Columbia on April 1

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25.—D. A. Doran, Jr., executive assistant to Harry Cohn, has resigned effective April 1. Doran had been story editor of Pathe, Columbia, Paramount and Fox. His first production was with the Group Theatre entitled, "Gold Eagle Guy."

No successor has been named for Doran.

Red Cross Pledges Reach 96% of Last Year's Total

(*Continued from page* 1)

key-city meetings at which nine teams of industry leaders are speaking, N. Peter Rathvon, national industry chairman, believes that the 1945 campaign will surpass all preceding Red Cross drives, it was said.

Meanwhile, Edward Dowden, New York City public relations chairman, has called a meeting of the drive publicity committee for 2 p. m. today at WAC headquarters. Harry Mandel, national publicity co-chairman, will be present to familiarize the group with the national committee's plans.

Chicago Reaches 97%, Aims at 100%

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—John Balaban, industry drive chairman for the Red Cross War Fund Week in this area, told some 350 distributors and exhibitors at a luncheon in the Blackstone Hotel here Friday that 97 percent of theatres have already mailed their pledges—or 688 out of a possible 702 houses in the Chicago region.

Robert Mochrie, distributor chairman of the Midwest district, urged all groups not to be satisfied with anything less than 100 percent. M. A. Lightman, exhibitor chairman, asked showmen to extend the drive from seven to ten days and contact civic organizations for collectors.

Other speakers included Arthur Mayer, deputy commissioner of the Red Cross in the Pacific area, and Dick Powell, who is visiting here. Jack Kirsch is exhibitor co-chairman of the drive, while the distributors are represented here by Allen Usher, Harold Stevens and Sam Gorelick.

Southern California Seeks Industry Lead

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25.—With 400 in attendance at an exhibitor-distributor luncheon meeting at the Ambassador Hotel Friday, plans for the Red Cross campaign in Southern California moved forward, with Charles Skouras declaring, "We theatre men of this area are determined to lead the industry in results." Willard Keith represented Ned E. Depinet. Among the speakers were Robert H. Poole, Walter Wanger, Red Cross chairman Gurney Newlin and Army and Navy guests.

Buffalo Launches 'Drive' at Lunch

BUFFALO, Feb. 25.—Plans for the industry's participation in Red Cross War Fund Week will be made at a luncheon meeting in the Hotel Statler, here, tomorrow. The gathering will be one of 32 key city meetings scheduled to precede the drive in the nation's 16,000 theatres. Organized to coordinate and initiate plans for theatre activities, the meetings are the auspices of the industry's War Activities Committee.

Robert T. Murphy, Buffalo area exhibitor chairman, will preside, assisted by George A. Mason and George H. Mackenna, co-chairmen. In charge of the distribution committee for this area will be Al Herman, assisted by Ralph W. Maw and Elmer Lux, co-chairmen. Charles B. Taylor is publicity chairman.

Industry leaders, theatre managers, sales managers, Red Cross and press representatives will be present to greet the national industry representatives, Ben Kalmenson and Maj. L. E. Thompson, who will be the principal speakers.

150 Attend St. Louis Red Cross Luncheon

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 25.—One hundred and fifty theatre owners and managers in the St. Louis area attended a luncheon at the Coronado Hotel here, Friday, to complete plans for participation in the Red Cross War Fund drive.

Louis K. Ansell, chairman of the St. Louis Motion Picture Exhibitors Committee, presided and speakers were Edward Schnitzer, distributor chairman of the War Activities Committee; Francis Harmon of the national WAC, and Martin Smith, Toledo.

Arrangements for the luncheon were made by B. J. McCarthy, in charge of United Artists' office here.

Atlanta Film Men Hold 'Drive' Lunch

ATLANTA, Feb. 25.—Preparation for the industry's Red Cross Fund for 1945 got under way at a luncheon meeting yesterday, attended by bookers, managers and film salesmen.

Testimonial Here For Miss Merriam

Industry friends, here, of Gertrude Merriam, associate editor of Managers' Round Table of *Motion Picture Herald,* will give a testimonial party Wednesday evening, March 21, honoring her forthcoming marriage, on March 25, to Howard Ernestthal. The party will be held at the New Amsterdam Theatre Roof, and is being arranged by a committee of Miss Merriam's friends.

The New Amsterdam Roof was offered for the occasion by Max Cohen, president of Cinema Circuit. Tickets are available from the ticket chairman, Herb Berg, at United Artists.

Columbia Intl. Files

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 25.—Columbia International Corp., a Delaware corporation, has filed a certificate with the Secretary of State signifying that it will do business in New York State.

Williams Is President Of Miss. Exhibitors

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 25.—The Mississippi Exhibitors Association, new organization here replacing the Motion Picture Theatre Owners, has elected R. X. Williams, independent theatre operator of Oxford, Miss., president.

Vice-presidents elected were Grady Cook, Lloyd Royal and E. W. Clinton. Max Connett has been named secretary-treasurer.

Mono. Studio Club Formed on Coast

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25.—Monogram Studio Club is in process of organization by Harry Bourne, head of the wardrobe department, and first board meeting, to elect chairman, secretary and treasurer for the year, will be held here tomorrow.

Industry Red Cross Drive Honor Roll

Latest among territories and exchange and exhibitor chairmen whose areas are pledged 100 *per cent for participation in the Red Cross War Fund Week drive, March* 15-21:

Albany—Ray Smith, distributor chairman; C. J. Latta, exhibitor-chairman; Charles Smakwitz, public relations chairman.—200 theatres.

Delaware—John Allen, Washington, and George Schwartz, Philadelphia, distributor co-chairmen; Earle W. Sweigert and A. Joseph De Fiore, exhibitor co-chairmen—33 theatres.

Rhode Island — G. William Horan, Boston, distributor chairman; Ed Fay, exhibitor chairman—56 theatres.

San Francisco—Newton Jacobs, distributor chairman; B. V. Sturdivant and Roy Cooper, exhibitor co-chairman; Fay Reeder, public relations chairman—500 theatres.

Harris to Advise on Rank Film Reediting

Jack Harris, film editor for J. Arthur Rank's independent producers' group at Denham studio, is here from England to advise on possible reediting of British pictures which will be released in the U. S., principally by United Artists and 20th Century-Fox. Harris is accompanied by John Dennis and Desmond Dew, recording engineers at D. and P. studios, Denham, who will survey new American equipment with a view to future equipment purchases by Rank studios when it becomes available. Dennis and Dew are en route to the Coast to inspect Hollywood studios.

Harris, who will be here for a four months' stay, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that, after consultation with sales officials, he might authorize reediting of certain pictures to conform to requirements of the U. S. market. Additionally, Harris, as the result of his studies here, will advise British producers on accent and dialogue to bring their films in line with what is wanted by American audiences.

E.Markham Succeeds Gibson at TBA

Emerson Markham, recently appointed manager of television at General Electric in Schenectady, has been named a member of the board of directors of Television Broadcasters Association.

Markham will fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Robert L. Gibson as director last month. Gibson is now advertising and sales promotion manager of the GE chemical department, his new activities taking him out of television.

J. R. Poppele, president of TBA, also announced that Ralph B. Austrian, executive vice-president of RKO Television Corp., has been appointed chairman of the TBA program committee for 1945.

PLAY IT EASTER! DAY-AND-DATE WITH HUNDREDS OF THEATRES!

FRANZ WERFEL'S

The Song of Bernadette

PRODUCED BY
WILLIAM PERLB

DIRECTED BY
HENRY KING

COLLECT AT EVERY SHOW! RED CROSS WEEK—MARCH 15-21

AT POPULAR PRICES

Easter dates are pouring in! For the booking event of events! Be one of the first to show this sensational hit—AT POPULAR PRICES!

CELEBRATE WITH US IN APRIL!

THREE DECADES OF ENTERTAINMENT SUPREMACY!

Dipson Overruled On $110,000 Suit

BUFFALO, Feb. 25.—Petition of the Dipson Realty Co. to make an arrangement with creditors whereby payment of $110,000 worth of promissory notes would be deferred ten years was dismissed today by Referee James W. Persons of U. S. Bankruptcy Court. Persons had been designated by Judge John Knight to hear the evidence.

Dipson owns two theatre buildings in the Buffalo area, the Bailey in this city and the Star in suburban Tonawanda, and has an interest in other theatrical operations. Holders of the promissory notes are Nikitas D. Dipson, president, $58,154; Andy Gibson, secretary-treasurer, $25,922, and Samuel L. Yellen, former officer, $25,922.

Filed Aug. 14

Later modified to include the ten-year deferment, the petition for the arrangement was filed last August 14 after Yellen brought suit in the state courts to collect on the notes. Dipson and Gibson contended that there had been an agreement when they, with Yellen, advanced the money on a pro-rata basis that the notes were not to be paid "until it was possible to do so out of earning some profit." Yellen charged no such agreement existed.

"It appears from the statements prepared from the books of the corporation," said Persons, "that at all times these notes were carried as current liabilities and interest on them was accrued; that the interest constituted a deduction from income-tax reports under the title 'bonds, notes and mortgages' payable with original maturity less than one year.

"These notes were negotiable instruments and there is no testimony that there was any restriction upon their transfer. Therefore, it must be found that no understanding or agreement, as alleged in the petition, as to the time of demand of payment of said notes was made."

Yellen's attorney, Adrian Block, said that under the decision his client will be permitted to continue his suit, stayed temporarily by the Federal Court order.

Levin Heads Cinema Meeting Committee

Jack C. Levin is in charge of program arrangements for the Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith meeting to be held at the Pythian Temple here tomorrow night at which Harry Brandt, independent exhibitor and chairman of the industry's participation in the recent Sixth War Loan drive, will be presented with the Cinema 'Honor Scroll' by S. H. Fabian, War Activities Committee theatres division chairman.

About 500 from the industry are expected to attend the joint open meeting with the Cinema Ladies' Auxiliary of B'nai B'rith, at which the Auxiliary will be formally instituted into Cinema Lodge and its officers installed.

Theatre Wing Meeting

The American Theatre Wing's entertainment committee, headed by James Sauter, and including Brock Pemberton and George Heller, will discuss its present activities and future plans with representatives of the press and others at a luncheon at Sardi's here today.

Review

"The Picture of Dorian Gray"

(*M-G-M*)

Hollywood, Feb. 25

PROGRAM notes on "The Picture of Dorian Gray" read:

"Occasionally, Hollywood produces a motion picture that is a decided departure from the general run of screen entertainment. Such a production is 'The Picture of Dorian Gray'. It is unusual, intriguing, novel and a little shocking. It is a story from the masterful pen of Oscar Wilde, told with rare charm and sophistication, and interpreted with superlative artistry."

A decided departure, beyond any doubt! Unusual, intriguing and novel it is acknowledged to be. The Wilde work, it is quite correct, has been interpreted with superlative artistry.

But that is not all, for "The Picture of Dorian Gray" also may well be underestimated in the degree of its impact and to assert, merely, that it is sophisticated is not nearly enough.

This attraction, surrounded by magnificence and all of the outward evidences of a polite and genteel society, actually is a corroding drama of a corrupt and malevolent phase of London's Mayfair toward the close of the 19th century. It is a fantasy-drama of a cultured young man, and handsome, who succumbs to a pleasure-seeking philosophy of life and sells his soul so that his youth may be perpetuated.

It is true that, at the meagre outset and scatteringly thereafter, Dorian Gray resists the temptations so invidiously held out for him by Lord Henry Wotton. But not for long. Gray ruins Sibyl Vane, unsophisticated barroom singer, and comfortably falls back on shattered illusions, which he reads into this situation, as a starting point for a ruthlessly decadent career. The girl commits suicide. Gray murders Basil Hallward, artist who had painted him; then holds the breath of scandal over anoother friend, Allen Campbell, as a device whereby Campbell disposes of Hallward's body. When Campbell takes his own life subsequently, clearly it is Gray who is morally, if not physically, responsible. The semblance of one decent act in this roue's whole life is his refusal to marry Gladys Hallward, the murdered artist's niece.

THROUGHOUT his flauntings of the accepted tenets of the social code, Gray remains refined, calm, externally gentle, perpetually young and handsome. He becomes the center of whispered, and then open, criticism in the high circle in which he lives. Dark stories are murmured about his mode of living, his unaccountable disappearances from the city, his constant visits to the dregs of London and what ugly acts and deeds, by suggestion on the screen, are indulged.

Internally, he turns rotten and decayed, the rot and the decay reflecting themselves in Hallward's portrait which Gray keeps under rigorous lock and key. When conscience overwhelms in one of its rare moments, Gray's warped thinking persuades him to destroy the accusing painting in the hope its destruction will free him from the sort of life he has led. As he plunges a knife into the heart of the horrible person looking down from the canvass, Gray himself dies. The portrait returns to its original—Gray as a young man—and the lechery, the disease and the bloody crime of which his life was composed transfer to the face of the dead man.

The philosophy, and also the keynote, upon which this film is constructed, is sounded by Wotton in his epigrams, "The one charm of marriage is that it makes a life of deception absolutely necessary for both parties," he observes. "Every temptation that we suppress broods in the mind and poisons us. The only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it. As we grow older, our memories are haunted by the exquisite temptations we had not the courage to yield to," he adds. "Pleasure is the only thing worth having a theory about. It is Nature's sign of approval," is a third.

In a limited-audience medium, a vehicle built upon such advocacy may have its proponents. In a motion picture, attracting incalculable numbers many of whom will not know what they are in for until they find themselves in their seats, this becomes another matter entirely. The unadorned fact is "The Picture of Dorian Gray" is shocking to an extent which sets it apart from any film of recent years.

WITHIN the boundaries of those craftsman-like assets which mark a production with distinction, this film falls with undeniable ease. Albert Levin, who wrote the script and directed for producer Pandro S. Berman, reflects brilliance. Hurd Hatfield, as Dorian Gray, is superb. George Sanders, as Lord Wotton, is excellent. So, too, are the supporting players among whom the principals are Angela Lansbury, as Sibyl Vane; Lowell Gilmore, as Basil Hallward; Peter Lawford, as David Stone; Richard Fraser, as James Vane; Douglas Walton, as Allen Campbell, and Donna Reed, as Gadys Hallward. But the high calibre of these professional services is in the nature of contributions to a film and a cause which are unsavory, unwholesome and repellent.

Obviously not for young people, "The Picture of Dorian Gray" is merchandise which the exhibitor should see for himself. He will have to decide.

Running time, 111 mins. Adult classification. No release date set.

RED KANN

'Gray' Premiere Mar. 1

"The Picture of Dorian Gray" will have its world premiere at the Capitol, here, on March 1. Appearing on the stage in conjunction with the first showing of the picture, will be Robert Walker, Lena Horne, and Xavier Cugat.

Wilson Joins NBC

Jack C. Wilson, formerly script writer with station WLW, National Broadcasting affiliate in Cincinnati, has joined the staff here of NBC's script-writing department, according to Richard McDonagh, script division manager.

Johnston Predicts Veterans' Influence

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25.—W. Ray Johnston, president of Monogram, said that "In planning our future, we motion picture producers are being influenced by the employees who are returning to us after service in the wars. They are mightily concerned about peace. They intended to see that their sacrifices in this war do not repre[illegible] the end of their interest in bring[illegible] about permanent freedom from wars.

"Those returning servicemen," added Johnston, "are aware of the basic world-wide importance of the motion picture. They have seen the way it influences foreign audiences in their conception of America. They want to join in making films which will carry the advanges of education to all men. This does not mean that they think any less of the entertainment values in motion pictures. Quite the contrary.

"They want laughs and hope—and it is when they work on such pictures that they feel their efforts are most rewarded," he concluded.

'Peace' Publication Edited by Matsoukas

"Towards A Permanent Peace" a symposium, is the first publication issued by the American Nobel Center, an organization established for the purpose of stimulating and encouraging the promotion of peace in the post-war world through intercultural education and through the development of better understanding among people of all nations and backgrounds.

Edited by Nick John Matsoukas, of Skouras Theatres here, "Towards A Permanent Peace" is a computation of addresses and comments occasioned by the American observance of the 48th anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel at the Fourth Annual American Nobel Anniversary dinner held at the Astor Hotel on Sunday, December 10, 1944, staged under the auspices of the American Nobel Anniversary Committee.

$1,000,000 Suit Vs. 'U', Loew on 'Life'

Billy K. Wells, script writer and playwright, filed suit Friday for $1,000,000 damages, in New York Federal Court, against Universal, Loew's, and Abbott and Costello, charging plagiarism of his 25-year-old skit, "Flugel Street" in Universal's "This Is the Life." Plaintiff claims that Joey Faye, allegedly plagiarised it in a skit entitled, "Floogel Street," which was used in the film.

Faye copyrighted the skit, but Wells, who wrote his in 1918 for "Maids of America," a burlesque, never copyrighted his, it is said. He claims ownership under common law rights, and seeks the dismissal of Faye's copyright.

Hoins Moves to WABC

John W. (Jack) Hoins, member of the CBS press information department, here, has been appointed script editor of radio station WABC and will also produce that station's "Margaret Arlen" program. Prior to his joining CBS in 1939, Hoins was a press book editor for 20th Century-Fox and earlier did publicity and exploitation for RKO.

NLRB Weighs Extras' Case

(Continued from page 1)

producers, told the NLRB that in certifying the union it had left producers 'in the middle' since the inclusion of bit players and those doing parts raised a question as to whether they should be in the SAG or the SPU.

Referring to the NLRB's certification of the new SPU union as arbitrary, impractical and contrary to the intent and spirit of the Wagner Act, Wright said that the initial error had been made in describing the new unit as a group of individuals rather than basing jurisdictional authority on the type of work performed. Under the present circumstances, he said, employers are called upon to determine who is in the group and not what they do.

'Carved Membership'

The SAG, Wright said, has had a union shop contract with the producers for years, and in certifying the new union the NLRB had for all practical purposes "carved out a large portion of the Guild's membership."

Both actors and extras, he said, perform work before a camera, but it should be a simple matter to determine the difference between the two. The witness said he was opposed to the certification because it will soon become difficult to perform under it.

William Berger, attorney for the SAG, told the NLRB that before its certification of the new union, all people who performed before a camera were members of the Guild. He said that while the great majority of extras knew acting work, there were very few who were interested in it.

Berger told the board that the present contracts drawn up by the SAG covered extras as well as actors, thereby making it possible for extras to advance into acting if they so desired.

Schullman Asks Dismissal

In defense of the Board's certification, Alexander Schullman, attorney for the SPU, urgently requested that the Board immediately dismiss the petitions, on the ground that complete testimony had been given at previous hearings.

Declaring that "there is more behind this than an honest desire to reconsider," Schullman said that extras had engaged in bit parts practically since motion picture production had begun. He contended that the Board's decision had defined the work unit, and that the jurisdiction given the SPU was not by any means limited to extras.

Also appearing for the SPU was Michael Jeffers, who told the Board that he bitterly opposed any change in the present certification of his union. Any change now, he said, would force hundreds of people into the SAG, an organization not of their own choosing. He charged that Guild policy was dominated for the most part by the higher salaried talent which could hardly be expected to understand the problems of extras.

Reconsideration of the present certification, he said, will place every other certified union in a state of confusion, wondering whether or not the same treatment might be accorded them.

Review

"Delightfully Dangerous"

(*Charles R. Rogers-United Artists*)

MIXING the strains of the popular Strauss classical music with the modern impressionistic music of Morton Gould and adding a story about a burlesque queen who winds up as the star of a show presenting a jive version of Strauss, Charles R. Rogers' tuneful film, "Delightfully Dangerous," is diverting light musical entertainment. Featured are the appealing voices of young Jane Powell and Constance Moore, who hold up the principal roles with Ralph Bellamy. Others in the cast incude Gould and his orchestra, Arthur Treacher, Louise Beavers and Ruth Tobey.

The story centers around Miss Powell, a student in a secluded music seminary, who lives by the myth that her older sister, Miss Moore, is a popular musical comedy star when in reality she is a reigning queen of burlesque. Bellamy, a musical comedy producer, unwittingly helps perpetuate this myth but young Jane accidentally discovers the truth. By this time, Bellamy has been smitten by Miss Moore. He is seeking a star for his latest production, but Miss Moore is too proud to angle for the spot. With Miss Powell trying to further her own career as a singer, Bellamy finds himself in a difficult position for a while, but everything works out well in the end with both Miss Moore and Miss Powell being starred in Bellamy's jive version of Strauss featuring Morton Gould and his orchestra.

Of the four musical numbers composed by Gould, "Through Your Eyes . . . To Your Heart," sung by Miss Powell is the best. Several of the Strauss favorites are featured in the footage. Arthur Lubin directed from a screen play by Walter DeLeon and Arthur Phillips based on a story by Irving Phillips, Edward Verdier and Frank Tashlin. Joseph S. Tushinsky was associate producer and Ernst Matray has staged some sparkling musical numbers in the handsome production with which Rogers has surrounded the action. Miss Moore and Miss Powell are charming and appealing in the featured roles, and Bellamy is a likeable producer, all combining to make this a satisfying musical a little off the beaten path.

Running time, 93 minutes. General classification. Release date not set.

MILTON LIVINGSTON

More Field Men to Visit Home Office

Four more M-G-M field promotion men will arrive today to spend a week here visiting the home office, including Ernest Van Pelt, handling Salt Lake City territory; William Prass, Denver; Austin McGough, Des Moines; Price Shoemaker, Jr., Chicago. J. O'Connor of Omaha, originally scheduled to make the trip, has postponed it until he recovers from illness.

Leaving over the weekend for their respective territorial headquarters, after a week here, are Ken Prickett, New Orleans; Al Burks, Charlotte; Tom Baldridge, Washington; James Ashcraft, Philadelphia.

Laudy Lawrence Is Here from France

Laudy Lawrence, M-G-M Continental European manager before the war, and subsequently with the Office of War Information and Psychological Warfare branch, is in this country from France conferring with military officials and New York, it is learned here.

Lawrence is currently civilian consultant to the Army communications zone for the French area which is attached to the Services of Supply. He is expected to return to the French theatre.

Eyssell QP Guest At Awards Lunch

(Continued from page 1)

Harris Amusement Co., Pittsburgh; Harry Shaw of Loew's, New Haven.

Showmanship efforts of theatremen across the country, which have been sent to the Managers' Round Table of MOTION PICTURE HERALD for the past year, for consideration in the Annual Quigley Awards, will be judged together with material submitted for the War Showmanship Award.

Blue Network Shifts 3 in Program Dept.

Stuart Buchanan, John Coburn Turner and Juliet Glen have been given new assignments in the Blue Network's program department, according to an announcement by Hubbell Robinson, Jr., vice-president in charge of programs and production.

Buchanan, who has been manager of the script division, has been made a program supervisor. Turner, formerly manager of the program promotion division, has been made manager of the script division, replacing Buchanan. Miss Glen replaces Turner as manager of program promotion.

M. J. Mullin Is First Pinanski Appointee

(Continued from page 1)

some 400 theatres in Massachusetts, the entire personnel of which will again be marshalled for action in boosting Seventh War Loan sales. About 90 per cent of the theatres in this state are official 'issuing agents' for the Treasury, selling war bonds direct from box offices. In addition, the theatres plan to conduct 'War Bond Premieres,' 'Kiddie Shows,' 'Free Movie Days,' bond rallies and other special activities to an even greater degree than in previous drives.

Producers Meet Mar. 5

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25.—March 5 has been selected by the Association of Motion Picture Producers as the new date for its recently postponed annual directors' meeting and election of officers.

Skouras to Mexico

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25. — Charles Skouras, president of Fox West Coast Theatres, flew to Mexico City yesterday, reputedly to explore the possibility of FWC's entering Mexican exhibition.

Reagan, Erbb Hold Philadelphia Meet

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 25. — Branch managers, salesmen and head bookers of Paramount's Philadelphia, Washington and Pittsburgh branch offices and district advertising representatives will meet with Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, and other home office executives in a two-day meeting at the Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia, starting tomorrow and Tuesday. This meeting will continue the series of nationwide district meetings which Reagan has been holding.

William H. Erbb, Eastern division manager, will preside at the sessions here, and Earle W. Sweigert, Philadelphia district manager, will be host at an informal luncheon on Tuesday for exhibitors and delegates.

Others Attending

Also attending from the home office will be Hugh Owen, New York and Southern division manager; Oscar A. Morgan, general sales manager of short subjects and Paramount News; Robert M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director, and Claude Lee, director of public relations.

Those attending from the field, comprising branches in Sweigert's district will include: Philadelphia, Ulrik F. Smith, George T. Beattie, Herman Rubin, John Schaefer, John Bergin, George Elmo, Ralph Garman; Washington, J. E. Fontaine, A. C. Benson, Harley Davidson, W. V. Dougherty, John Bryan, Herbert Thompson, Benjamin Harp, R. M. Grace; Pittsburgh, David Kimelman, Edward Stuve, Robert Caskey, Guy H. Peterson, Charles Mergen, Edwin Averbach, William Brooks.

Also attending will be William Brooker, district advertising representative for Philadelphia and Washington, and James Levine, Pittsburgh advertising representative.

De Luxe Laboratories Pays $31,942 Wages

De Luxe Laboratories, Manhattan, has agreed to comply with the Federal Wage-Hour Law by paying back wages and overtime amounting to $31,942 to 176 employees, the New York office of the U. S. Department of Labor reports.

Arthur J. White, regional director of the wage and hour and public contracts divisions of the Department, said that De Luxe was among several-hundred making payments within the past five weeks; there was no court action.

Dual Soviet Opener

The Stanley Theatre, here, Russian U. S. film 'show case' has opened a double American premiere of two new Soviet films, "Marriage" and "Jubilee," released as part of the 40th anniversary observance of Anton Chekhov's death.

Purple Heart for Bess

NASHVILLE, Feb. 25.—Mrs. Patricia Lampley Bess has received the Purple Heart awarded posthumously to her husband, Pvt. Charles N. Bess, former manager of Crescent's Woodbine Theatre, here, who was killed in action in France, July, 1944.

READ THIS AD
From Lyric Theatre, Lancaster, Ohio
in Lancaster Eagle-Gazette

We Are Open!

Ladies and Gentlemen:—

We complied with the War Labor Board instructions and have turned off our gas.

We were open last evening and everyone enjoyed "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo."

Large crowds are attending this picture. We all know that large crowds make heat. This body heat with the insulation of the theatre, will make this theatre reasonably comfortable. Tell your friends that Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo will be shown at this theatre continuously Saturd a y and Sunday at 1:00, 3:30, 6:00 and 8:30 p. m.

LYRIC THEATRE

LYRIC-Today-Sun.Mon.Tue.

THIRTY SECONDS OVER TOKYO

M-G-M HIT!

WITH VAN JOHNSON · ROBERT WALKER
PHYLLIS THAXTER · TIM MURDOCK
SCOTT McKAY · GORDON McDONALD
DON DeFORE · ROBERT MITCHUM
JOHN R. REILLY · HORACE McNALLY
AND
SPENCER TRACY
as LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES H. DOOLITTLE

Sat.-Sun.
Feature
At 1:00
3:30-6:00
& 8:30

We Are Open!

Ladies and Gentlemen:—

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1924 1945
21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP
MGM

Watch For Press Book! Use It!
Red Cross Drive—March 15-21!

M-G-M's

RED HOT SPECIALS

THEY BRING THE CROWDS THAT HEAT YOUR THEATRE!

M-G-M's "THIRTY SECONDS OVER TOKYO"

M-G-M's "MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS" (Technicolor)

M-G-M's "NATIONAL VELVET" (Technicolor)

OUR CONTRACTS ARE ALL AT BODY TEMPERATURE!

HEAT UP WITH LEO

May Relax Curfew For War Centers

(Continued from page 1)

tinued operation of the night shows it has been unable to take any action as yet because it has received no complaints from exhibitors.

The OCR recreation section was responsible for the length and hours of service of many theatres and other amusement places in war centers at a time when factories were encountering great difficulty in getting workers for the night shifts and officials believe a definite lowering of morale will follow application of the curfew.

At Director Byrnes' office it was said the entire matter has been turned over to the WMC with authority to enforce the order in such way as to secure the most efficient results. Considerable confusion still prevails as to just what "other" savings than in coal, manpower and transportation the order is intended to effect. In view of the fact that many of the places to which it applies are so located that they require no coal and no power produced from fuel and fill their labor needs from excess manpower not otherwise required.

Iowa Not Worried Over Midnight Halt

DES MOINES, Feb. 25.—Theatres here are little affected by the Byrnes edict. Nearly all have weekday closings well before midnight. Saturday midnight shows in the larger cities, including Des Moines, will feel the ban most, a survey shows. Only weekday effect will be in the case of long features for which schedules will have to be re-arranged. Tri-States Theatre Corp. here is "just as glad' to halt weekly midnight showings held for "audience reaction," it was stated.

Salt Lake Cooperates Enforcing Curfew

SALT LAKE CITY, Feb. 25.—Theatre managers said they would be little affected by the midnight-curfew order and that it will mean only an advance of five or 10 minutes in closing time.

Joseph S. Mayer, Utah director of the War Manpower Commission, said that provision would be set up immediately to enforce the ruling in Utah by lowering of manpower ceilings of violators. "Enforcement will be entirely upon a sanction basis with all Government agencies cooperating," he said.

Overtime Expense Cut Welcome in Cleveland

CLEVELAND, Feb. 25.—The curfew will be no theatre problem here, with programs being cut to required length. The elimination of overtime operating expenses is welcomed in many instances.

Mayor Thomas A. Burke will issue a curfew proclamation Monday. Cleveland operates under Eastern Standard Time, or one hour slower than Federal Wartime. Some interpret this to set closing time at 11 P.M. Cleveland Time.

Warners and Loew's announce the curfew cuts abolished Saturday late shows in all Ohio zone theatres, including Akron, Canton, Youngstown, Toledo, Chillicothe, Findlay, Lorain, Mansfield and Massilon.

50 Bills, Yet Industry Does Well in 33 States

(Continued from page 1)

the governor signed a bill to repeal the two per cent service tax applied to all admissions above five cents, and in Utah legislation was passed and approved permitting the employment of girls under 18 as ushers in theatres.

Four state measures have been definitely defeated so far and two others have been re-committed to committees, which in the state legislatures usually means their death.

Those defeated include an Iowa bill requiring the fire marshal to license all theatres under rigid inspection of seats, aisles, entrances, exits, etc.; a Montana measure to license circuit theatres at rates ranging from $5 a year for one theatre to $1,000 each for ten or more, and repealing the present tax on gross income; a North Carolina effort to change the license tax based on seating capacity to the former three per cent gross admission tax, and an Oregon anti-discrimination bill to apply to all places of amusement.

An Indiana bill prohibiting the sale or rental of pictures on a percentage basis and prohibiting stipulations on the period of showing was recommitted to a Senate committee after passing the House, and in Oklahoma a bill was recommitted which would abolish mill tokens and provide for the collection of sales taxes in multiples of one cent, with children's admission exemption raised from ten to 12 cents.

Major subjects of concern to state legislators appear to have been taxes, fire protection and racial discrimination, the MOTION PICTURE DAILY survey showed.

Tax Legislation

In the field of taxes, two Arkansas bills, amended and expected to be defeated, would impose a two per cent use tax to supplement a sales tax to be levied on tangible personal propty either purchased, rented or leased from outside the state; Connecticut has a bill for a three per cent gross tax on monthly business, the receipts to go for aid to incapacitated persons; in Georgia, pending legislation would change the percentage of income taxes levied against outside corporations.

Two bills are pending in Illinois to reduce the sales tax from two to one per cent; in Massachusetts, the loss of revenue from the ban on racing would be compensated by a ten per cent admission tax and a tax of $1 per reel on all motion pictures, the latter accompanied by a stipulation that no increase may be made in admission prices; in Nebraska a two per cent tax on gross receipts from retail sales of tangible personal property is proposed.

In North Dakota two bills are pending for the reenactment of the present two per cent sales tax; Ohio measures would reduce the present three per cent sales tax applying to admissions to two per cent on amounts over 50 cents and one per cent on smaller amounts, and would repeal the admission tax to permit local subdivisions to levy taxes; a South Dakota bill would increase the present sales tax by one per cent; a Washington bill would reduce the sales tax from three to two per cent, and a West Virginia measure would increase the exemption from a sales tax, including admissions, from six to 26 cents.

Fire protection measures are pending in several legislatures, one Connecticut bill calling for strict enforcement of regulations and inspections by fire marshals of all places of public amusement seating more than 100 persons, and another providing for the appointment of a building inspector and for uniform inspection for all classes of buildings; Indiana legislation would broaden the authority of the state fire marshal over public places; Maine contemplates the creation of the office of state fire marshal and revision of fire prevention laws; a Maryland bill calls for notice of exits to be shown on the screens of motion picture theatres.

Anti-discrimination bills are pending in Delaware, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Washington.

Gambling Measures

'Bank Nights' and similar events are involved in gambling legislation which is pending in several states, and theatres are threatened with new competition from bills in New Hampshire to permit pari-mutuel dog racing, in New Mexico to legalize gambling by local option, in Rhode Island to provide for a state conducted lottery, and in Wyoming to legalize gambling. The 'Bank Night' question comes up in connection with legislation in New Mexico to permit film theatres to offer cash or merchandise prizes and in West Virginia to prohibit theatre bank nights.

The remaining measures affecting exhibitors involve a variety of subjects, including the following:

Connecticut bills call for two men in a booth and would permit the exercise of local option as to whether theatres should open on Sunday at 1 p.m. instead of 1:30 p.m. A Maryland measure would prohibit children under 16 from attending film theatres between 9 p.m. on one day and 3 p.m. the next day. Massachusetts would prohibit exhibitors charging higher admissions on Sundays and holidays than on other days, with a penalty of $500 fine for violation.

A Nebraska bill would repeal the state's anti-ASCAP law. A Texas proposal calls for creation of a censorship board in each senatorial district.

Altec's Hacking Names Fairbanks

BOSTON, Feb. 25.—L. J. Hacking, New England district manager of Altec Service Corp., announces the appointment of Robert D. Fairbanks as branch manager of the Boston District.

Fairbanks was associated with ERPI in Boston prior to joining Altec in 1937.

RCM Ownership Goes Back to Mills Novelty

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25.—Sole ownership of RCM Productions, originally formed to produce "soundies" and engaded since Pearl Harbor, in making training films, reverted to the Mills Novelty Co. Friday when James Roosevelt and Sam Coslow, in separate transactions, sold their interests in RCM to that company.

Midnight Curfew Is Adopted in Toronto

Toronto, Feb. 25. — The Board of Police Commissioners has broadened the scope of the new Toronto by-law prohibiting Sunday shows by requiring theatres and other amusement places to close by midnight each week day, except on New Year's Eve and Christmas. Some local exhibitors appeared before the board to protest the ruling on the grounds that they had not been consulted.

Paramount Officials Return from Coast

Paramount executives and partners, who had been visiting the studio for several weeks, returned to New York Friday. Among those also returning were Leonard Goldenson, vice-president in charge of theatre operations; R. M. Weitman, managing director of the New York Paramount; Edward L. Hyman, director of theatres in the Northern division; Max Fellerman and Joseph Kinsky, theatre department executives.

The entire party visited Phoenix for a meeting with Harry L. Nace, head of Publix-Richards-Nace, prior to leaving for New York. Other stops were made at Detroit, Chicago, Salt Lake City and San Francisco.

MGM Confirms Pact With Rooney, Inc.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25.—M-G-M has issued a statement verifying reports that the studio is making a new contract with Rooney, Inc., for the services of Mickey Rooney. Seven yearly options are provided, the first to be exercised after the star's discharge from the Army. The contract permits "limited radio and personal appearance rights" and includes an arrangement under which the studio can require Rooney to discontinue his radio activities.

Doyle of 20th-Fox Is Freed in Manila

(Continued from page 1)

Manila by General Douglas MacArthur's forces, according to word received from Washington at the weekend by his sister, Mrs. Clayton Sheehan.

Doyle, who before the war made his headquarters in Tokyo, was en route from there to the United States on one of his periodic visits to New York when he was seized by the Japs in Manila. He had been a prisoner for the three years since.

Weekend Singles to Meet Curfew Edict

(Continued from page 1)

Warners and Essaness have agreed to the new policy, provided B. and K. will fall in line also.

On account of late weekend shows, theatres with double bills do not wind up their programs before 1 to 1:30 a.m. The single feature policy will solve the time problem, it is held, and will not injure box office returns, as weekend crowds generally do not attend theatres on week nights.

WE'RE ALL IN IT!

Now Let's Pull Together

The Grand Rally has begun...again showmen have the supreme privilege of taking the lead in this vitally necessary campaign for this noble purpose...TO KEEP THE RED CROSS AT HIS SIDE . . . Every conceivable showmanship help...to increase your audiences...and to sell them the RED CROSS in your theatre . . . is available at every one of the 31 branches of the NSS...Your big show dates are . . . RED CROSS DRIVE . . . March 15-25 . . . Pick your material NOW!...and GO THE LIMIT!

NATIONAL *Screen* SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

THERE WILL BE BIG HEADLINES ABOUT THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY ON FRIDAY

WARNERS REVEAL IT FIRST AT THE STRAND, N.Y.

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 39 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1945 | TEN CENTS

Set Television Jurisdiction Now: M. Woods

Would Arbitrate Union Demands, Fix Scales

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

SCHENECTADY, Feb. 26.—A combined industry-wide effort of all broadcasters, television stations and others to iron out now all complicated union jurisdictional problems which face the future of television, by setting definite jurisdiction over specific activities for all unions involved and to put union workers on a basis of increased pay scales commensurate with the financial development of the industry,

Mark Woods

(*Continued on page* 10)

B'way Grosses Continue Big

Aided by good Washington's Birthday business, despite rain, and further helped by a school holiday last Friday, New York's first-runs are generally registering another week of heavy grosses with little immediate effect anticipated from the new midnight curfew which went into effect last night—at least not in current week's receipts.

Five new films are due this week

(*Continued on page* 11)

Mono. 6-Month Net Totals $67,842

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Monogram's consolidated net profit, after all charges including Federal income and excess profit taxes, was $67,842 for the six months ended Dec. 30, 1944, compared with $48,014 for the same

(*Continued on page* 7)

Gamble Calls 7th Bond Drive Meeting

Washington, Feb. 26.—Plans for the industry's part in the Seventh War Loan campaign in May and June will be discussed at a meeting here March 2, of members of the War Activities Committee with Theodore R. Gamble, director of the Treasury's War Finance division.

The group is the first of general industry committees to be called into conference, its meeting following a general session March 1 of state chairmen, who will be advised of the dates of the drive and the amount to be raised.

Move to Strengthen U.S. Monopoly Laws

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Legislation to strengthen Federal prohibitions against 'monopolistic mergers' was introduced in Congress today by Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney, Wyoming, and Rep. Estes Kefauver, Tennessee.

The measure would prohibit a corporation acquiring the assets of another corporation where the effect of such acquisition would be "to substantially lessen competition."

Existing U. S. law prohibits a corporation from acquiring the capital stock of another where such action would reduce competition, and the new measure would 'plug' a loophole which, it is feared, might be used to develop new monopolies in the postwar period.

Cliff Work Heads 'U' Advisory Board; 3 Promoted at Studio

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Universal has formed an advisory board to supervise production at the company's studio. Headed by Cliff Work, vice-president and general manager of the studio, the board's personnel will include executives representing all activities within the organization, and will consist of Martin Murphy, studio and production manager; George Bole, production executive; Edward Muhl, associate executive;

Cliff Work

(*Continued on page* 11)

2 Factual Dramas Set by 20th-Fox

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—In a declaredly "radical departure from ordinary production, 20th Century-Fox will undertake two major films "entirely based on fact and filmed as factual dramas," Darryl F. Zanuck announced here today. "Now It Can Be Told," based on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's wartime activities, and "Boomerange," showing how a civilian

(*Continued on page* 6)

Congressmen Fight for Ease Up on Curfew

Protest for Areas Where No Coal Will Be Saved

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—California Congressmen today protested to the House over application of War Mobilization Director Byrnes' midnight curfew order, effective tonight, to areas where no saving of coal can result, and indicated that the fight to have the order "clarified" will be taken direct to the White House.

Representatives Franck R. Havenner and Gordon L. McDonough both complained, for example, that the cur-

(*Continued on page* 7)

Eyssell Lauds QP Awards

The necessity of exhibitors keeping faith with the public was stressed by Gus S. Eyssell, managing director of the Radio City Music Hall, who was guest of honor at a luncheon at the Hotel Astor here yesterday in conjunction with the 11th annual Quigley Showmanship Awards judging by over 60 executives from exhibition, distribution and advertising. Martin Quigley was host and introduced Eyssell.

Reviewing some of the promotional efforts of the Music Hall, Eyssell

(*Continued on page* 6)

American Seating, NTS in 'Co-op' Deal

American Seating and National Theatre Supply have completed a new cooperative arrangement to be effective immediately, to make possible new economies of manufacture and distribution, to benefit theatre owners in the form of improved service in theatre seating requirements, it was

(*Continued on page* 10)

Suburbs Await Loop Splurge, Delay Key Runs 3 Months

Chicago, Feb. 26.—Illinois and Indiana exhibitors, operating in towns which are reached by Chicago daily newspapers, are holding up leading product three to four months behind national release schedules, because of the wide popularity of local papers in the two states and the attending attention given advertisements by Loop first-run houses. Consequently, exhibitors delay playing dates until Loop houses have shown the product and have used up their newspaper advertising budgets.

The situation is expected to become more acute this year, due to the extended runs given pictures in the Loop. Peoria, Ill., Elkhart, Ind., Springfield, Ill., and South Bend, Ind., are typical examples of towns delaying dates because of papers. More Chicago papers are sold in those places than local daily and weekly publications combined. As a result, pictures like "An American Romance," released last November, are just making the rounds in the so-called "Chicago paper towns."

Publicity representatives for local distributors assigned to those areas hold up their campaigns on new product and tie them around Chicago rather than national angles.

Reviewed Today

Review of "It's a Pleasure" appears on page 7.

W. S. Berger Free, Sees Son on Luzon

Word reached New York yesterday through press dispatches, from a 41st Field on Luzon, Philippines, of the freeing of William S. Berger, pioneer film importer-exporter, who had arrived at Manila just as the Japs invaded, was captured and interned at Los Banos. The dispatches also told how Berger's son, T/5 Stanley, attached to the Seventh Amphibious Force of the Army, received a special pass to leave Subic Bay to greet his father.

Berger and a brother conducted Acme Trading Co., here and in Manila, Berger handling the New York end and his brother in charge in Manila. The latter died shortly before the Jap invasion and Berger traveled to Manila to adjust the company's affairs, but was captured. Berger's company once handled Monogram and RKO product in the Philippines, among product of others.

EK's Henry Heesch Rescued by Troops

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Feb. 26.—Among civilian internees rescued by U. S. paratroopers from Los Banos prison camp in the Philippines was Henry Heesch, Rochesterian who had been general manager of Eastman Kodak's Company branch in Manila.

Heesch and his wife, who now lives here with their three children, went to Manila in 1938. Previous to that he had been stationed in Japan.

Ruggles in London For Rank Picture

LONDON, Feb. 26.—Wesley Ruggles, American director who will produce "London Town," musical, for J. Arthur Rank here, arrived today from the U. S.

Arrangements have been made for immediate discussions with Governmental departments regarding necessary labor permits for American technicians whom Ruggles is desirous of having work here on the film.

Lewis Leaves M-G-M, Joins Coast Agency

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Cliff Lewis has resigned his post in the advertising department of the M-G-M studio to take charge of a new department, devoted to motion picture accounts, which will be established by Ruthrauff & Ryan, Inc. Lewis will have headquarters at the agency's Hollywood office.

RepublicDiscontinues All Outside Product

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Republic is discontinuing the handling of outside product, although two William Rowland productions, now in preparation, may be released before the changeover becomes effective. The move precipitates the resignation of Howard Sheehan, in charge of such deals, effective March 10.

Personal Mention

NED DEPINET, president of RKO Radio Pictures, has entered Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in Los Angeles for ten days of complete rest due to exhaustion; all visitors are barred.

•

OSCAR A. DOOB, Loew's advertising manager, has returned to New York from Florida where he spent time with M-G-M's "They Were Expendable" company on location on Biscayne Key, off Miami.

•

MIKE FOGGIA, operating the Opera House, Woodland, Me., has received word from his sons, LOUIS and AMEDEO, both in the Army, that they met recently in Luxembourg, after two years.

•

ALLEN J. TINDAL, president of IATSE Local No. 253, Rochester, N. Y., has been named chairman of the Monroe (N.Y.) County food panel rationing board.

•

MILTON WEISMAN, of Telenews' New York office, is completing a Coast-to-Coast tour of the company's newsreel theatres.

•

DINK JONES, exhibitor in five Arkansas towns, has been inducted into the Army and will report to Camp Robinson.

•

"BUCK" WADE of Universal's Salt Lake City sales staff, is on a trip through Northern Utah, Idaho and Montana.

•

JACK KIRBY, Paramount district manager in Atlanta, is conferring with JACK PRICE, manager in New Orleans.

•

BILL SEIB, Columbia sales executive in Salt Lake City, has returned there from New York.

•

J. S. JOSSEY, independent producer-distributor in Cleveland, has arrived in Miami.

•

JACK UNDERWOOD, division manager for Columbia in Dallas, has returned there from Nashville.

•

CHARLES E. KESSENICH, M-G-M district manager at Atlanta, was a recent Memphis visitor.

•

EDWIN SILVERMAN, president of Essaness Theatres, Chicago, has returned to that city from Hollywood.

HARRY A. ROSS, president of Ross Federal Service, has returned to New York from visits to Washington, Philadelphia and Charlotte branches.

•

AUSTIN KEOUGH, Paramount vice-president and general counsel, will leave Hollywood for New York today on the Superchief following studio conferences on his first trip to the Coast in two years.

•

JOEL LEVY, Loew's out-of-town booker, has become a grandfather with the birth of a daughter, EILEEN JEAN, to the wife of his son, JOEL LEVY, JR., a technical sergeant now stationed in the Philippines.

•

JOHN P. MASTERS, Bowling Green, Ky., city manager for Crescent Amusement Co., has been reelected president of the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce for the sixth consecutive year.

•

WILL YOLEN, Warners' home office special promotional-events director, has returned from Macon, Ga. He and MRS. YOLEN are observing their 10th wedding anniversary.

•

SOL SCHWARTZ, general manager of RKO's out-of-town theatres, has returned to New York from a Midwest tour.

•

CECIL VOGEL, manager of Loew's Palace, Memphis, is at his country home at Owensboro, Ky., for a rest.

•

LINDSLEY PARSONS, Monogram producer, has returned to Hollywood from Phoenix, Ariz.

•

SAM DEMBOW, JR., president of Golden Productions, has returned from the Coast.

•

HERBERT CROOKER, M-G-M publicity manager, returned here yesterday from the Coast.

•

BERT KULICK, PRC's general sales manager, will leave today for Pittsburgh and Cleveland.

•

CHING ALLEN, Atlanta branch manager for United Artists, is recovering from a long illness.

•

ROY BRAUER, Universal Atlanta manager, has returned there from a trip to Birmingham.

Kirsch Sets Allied Meet for March 6

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—The 15th annual convention of Allied Theatres of Illinois will be held at the Blackstone Hotel, here, March 6, president Jack Kirsch announces. Election of officers and directors is included on the program.

'Love a Mystery' Series

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Columbia will make a series of features carrying forward the principal characters of the current "I Love a Mystery."

Davis in So. Africa For Theatre Talks

LONDON, Feb 26.—John Davis, managing director of Odeon Theatres, has reached Johannesburg, South Africa, where, it is reported, negotiations are proceeding satisfactorily for the acquisition by J. Arthur Rank of theatres in that territory.

Alabama House Burns

ATLANTA, Feb. 26.—The Ritz Theatre, Centerville, Ala., owned by the Neely Circuit, was destroyed by fire.

NEW YORK THEATRES

The Greatest Lode of Thrills in Town!
"THE BIG BONANZA"
starring
RICHARD ARLEN
ROBERT LIVINGSTON
JANE FRAZEE
with
George "Gabby" Hayes
A Republic Picture
First N. Y. Showing
REPUBLIC THEATRE
B'way, Bet. 51st & 52nd Streets

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Showplace of the Nation • Rockefeller Center
"A SONG TO REMEMBER"
PAUL MUNI • MERLE OBERON
Introducing CORNEL WILDE
A Columbia Picture in TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
William POWELL
Myrna LOY
'THE THIN MAN GOES HOME'
IN PERSON
KING COLE TRIO
BENNY CARTER and ORCH.

Paramount presents
Ray Milland
IN
"MINISTRY of FEAR"
in Person
Johnny Long
and his Orchestra
LOUIS JORDAN and his FAMOUS TYMPANY FIVE
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett
Raymond Massey
"Woman in the Window"
AN INTERNATIONAL PICTURE
—A RKO RELEASE

SAMUEL GOLDWYN Presents
BOB HOPE
'THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE'
in Technicolor
Continuous Doors open 9:30 A.M.
ASTOR Broadway & 45th Street
Popular Prices • Midnight Show

WALT DISNEY'S
'The THREE CABALLEROS'
in TECHNICOLOR
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
NOW - - - Brandt's GLOBE

$10,000 for More Ads

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Leo Spitz has added $10,000 to the newspaper advertising budget for "It's a Pleasure," which carries the highest exploitation allocation yet given any International production.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday, and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Theo Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Executive Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1945 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10c.

YOU SHOWMEN KNOW WHAT TO DO!

1945

MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

RED CROSS WAR FUND WEEK

MARCH 15 THRU MARCH 21

764,584*
DEAD
WOUNDED
MISSING
AMERICAN
BOYS
APPEAL TO
YOUR
CONSCIENCE!

*Official U.S.
Casualty Figures
as of Feb. 8, 1945

"THE RED CROSS NEEDS YOUR SHOWMANSHIP

and salesmanship, which have been so generously and patriotically employed in so many activities during the national emergency. In the same spirit in which appeals have been made to you for all the patriotic efforts that our industry has undertaken in the war effort, appeal is again being made for the Red Cross so that a collection at every show in every theatre in the United States will bring in an even greater amount this year than ever before."

S. H. Fabian

CHAIRMAN, THEATRES DIVISION WAR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

YOUR PRESS BOOK

which should be in your hands now, is as complete as experienced showmen can make it — containing news and aids and ideas of how you can make your Red Cross Campaign outstanding in your career. If you haven't got your copy, which was mailed first class to you, check with National Screen.

YOUR TRAILER

starring Ingrid Bergman, and directed by Jacques Tourneur, is a MUST for showing immediately before every collection if you want to hit the top!

A COLLECTION AT EVERY SHOW!

MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

1945 RED CROSS WAR FUND WEEK

MARCH 15 THRU MARCH 21

•

This advertisement contributed by Columbia Pictures · Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer · Monogram Pictures · Paramount Pictures · Republic Pictures · RKO Radio Pictures · 20th Century-Fox · United Artists · Universal Pictures · Warner Bros.

RCA 1944 Net up To $10,263,291

Net profit of $10,263,291 was earned by RCA in 1944, compared with $10,192,452 in 1943, Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff, president, disclosed in the company's 25th annual report here yesterday. After payment of preferred dividends, earnings per share of common stock were 51.2 cents, compared with 50.5 for the previous year.

During 1944, the report stated, RCA Laboratories developed an efficient optical system for projecting television pictures as large as 18x24 inches and developed a system of molding lenses from plastic materials to reduce costs. Recalling the Federal Communications Commission's proposed assignment of 12 channels below 300 megacycles for commercial television and a large band of higher frequencies for experimental work and future services, Sarnoff and Lieut. Gen. J. G. Harbord, chairman of the board of directors, said that, if this proposal is adopted, "it will make possible the expansion of television as a service to the American people immediately after the war."

New Peaks

Also last year, the report added, RCA reached new peaks in production of radio-electronic equipment for the war effort, established new records in radio communications and completed more than 100 research projects for the Armed Forces.

Gross income during the year increased 10.8 per cent, to $326,421,913; Federal income tax provision, 14.6 per cent, to $29,947,900. Current assets at the end of 1944 were $190,629,493; current liabilities, $133,251,944. RCA's employment roster stood at 38,435, with 7,946 having joined the Armed Forces. Of the latter, 77 had been killed.

Gus Eyssell Lauds Quigley Awards at Luncheon Here

(*Continued from page* 1)

suggested that exhibitors should sell what they are presenting vigorously and intelligently. He pointed to the patriotic efforts being put forth by the nation's theatres and decried the placing of theatres in the same class as juke box joints, bars and night clubs in the new Federal edict establishing a midnight curfew for amusement places.

Paying tribute to the Managers Round Table of *Motion Picture Herald* which makes the annual awards for the best showmanship campaigns evolved in the field, Eyssell cited the awards as recognizing the fine work being done by the nation's showmen and pointed out that the entries mirror the hard work of the men submitting their campaigns and provide them with recognition for such work. He characterized the Managers Round Table as offering a platform upon which exhibitors can exchange ideas.

Aid to Service Men

Before presenting Eyssell, Quigley outlined some of the present activities of the Managers Round Table in providing a point of contact with the home front for industry members now in the Armed Forces. He pointed out that industry members now in the services are helping to advance the front of American showmanship in their contacts with exhibitors in other parts of the world.

Among the out-of-town judges who attended were Louis W. Schine of Schine Circuit, Gloversville, N. Y., with Seymour Morris, Schine advertising manager, and George Lynch, Schine booker; Ed Fay, Fay's Theatres, Providence, and Wing Commander J. W. Davis of the Royal Air Force, a former London exhibitor. Quigley introduced Harry Goldberg, Warner Theatres advertising and publicity head, who won the 1935 Bronze Grand Award and Arnold Stoltz, co-owner of the New Park Theatre, Woonsocket, R. I., winner of the 1941 Silver Grand Award.

The three winners in this year's competition are being selected on the basis of the balloting by the advertising, distribution and exhibition leaders who were present. Winners of the Silver Grand Award; the Bronze Grand Award and the War Showmanship Award will be announced Friday.

Also Present

In addition to those mentioned, the following were among those present: Spyros Skouras, Malcolm Kingsberg, John J. O'Connor, Herman Robbins, George Dembow, F. J. A. McCarthy, Hal Horne, Sol. A. Schwartz, James M. Brennan, S. Barret McCormick, William R. Ferguson, Harry Mandel, Leon Bamberger, Rodney Bush, Oscar Doob, Albert Deane, Steve Edwards, H. R. Emde Erwin Gold, Jack Goldstein, William J. Heineman, Charles Reed Jones, Howard LeSteur, Barry Buchanan, Irving Lesser, Fred Lynch, Henry Linet, Lawrence H. Lipskin, Charles B. McDonald, Harry McWilliams, Alec Moss, Lew Preston, Charles Schlaifer, S. F. Seadler, Stanley Shuford, William White, Sam Shain, Sam Rosen and Frank P. Rosenberg.

Also: Colvin Brown, Terry Ramsaye, Sherwin Kane, Chester Friedman, Gertrude Merriam, Ray Gallagher, Herbert Fecke, Ray Gallo, George Schutz, Ted Sullivan, James Ivers, Bert Ennis, Gus Fausel, William Formby, Floyd Stone and Milton Livingston.

$6,609 of Budget Saved in 6th Loan

The industry's Sixth War Loan Drive was conducted with an expenditure of 95 per cent of its $100,000 budget, a report by Harry Brandt, national chairman, discloses. Disbursements for advertising were $32,508; travel, $28,123; Madison Square Garden rally, $10,449; Statue of Liberty in Times Square, $3,000; payroll, $7,488; recordings, $5,649; miscellaneous, $5,154. With further [illegible] unpaid, estimated at $18,500, a total of $6,609 has been earmarked for return to the War Activities Committee.

Of 16,681 theatres operating in the U. S. and possessions, 16,200 participated in the drive, the report stated. "The trade press," it added, "devoted more space to the Sixth War Loan than ever before for a similar drive." Over 8,000 newspapers were serviced through feature syndicates. Ten posters were distributed to exhibitors.

Seek New Citation

The report made several recommendations for forthcoming war bond drives. While the "Medal of Honor" was said to have served its purpose, it was suggested that a citation be devised "of which the exhibitor's patrons can also be proud and feel that they were very instrumental in the theatre's receiving it." Other ideas included: appointment of the national director of advertising, publicity and exploitation at least ten weeks before opening day; reappointment of state publicity heads whose previous campaigns were especially successful; creation of a more definite program for putting over bond premieres; designation of "Free Movie Day" as a national holiday.

2 Factual Dramas Set by 20th-Fox

(*Continued from page* 1)

adapts himself to naval warfare, have been assigned to producer Louis de Rochemont.

Zanuck said, "We are going to produce both these pictures as if they were cut-and-dried factual films. We will tell a personal story in both, using important box-office personalities in key roles, but personalities are going to be handled as though they were unknown actors picked because they fit the roles. It is my belief that, by following this policy, we can have top boxoffice attractions and achieve realism never before reached in pictures."

Watch
U. A. releases
bearing
G.C.F.
Presents

Goldwyn Interviewed By British Press

LONDON, Feb. 26.—Samuel Goldwyn counselled the British film industry at a press interview here today that it must become internationally minded, like Hollywood, if it hopes to have its pictures accepted throughout the world.

Goldwyn, who is here on an undisclosed mission for the Foreign Economic Administration, denied that the trip had anything to do with motion pictures. A prepared statement issued by the American Embassy here described Goldwyn as a fact-finder for the FEA, here to study reverse Lend-Lease "with relation to industrial Britain."

Goldwyn parried questions about what happened to British films sent to America and, in reply to a question, denied that British exhibitors were being forced to accept American films regardless of merit.

Await Word on Brown

Norton Ritchey, Monogram vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, reported here yesterday that he still is awaiting word from Luzon on the fate or condition of W. H. Brown, who was in charge of company distribution at Manila. It is believed that Brown was captured and interned by the Japs, along with hundreds of other American businessmen.

Court Denies Appeal By Miss Skinner

The Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court has unanimously directed the dismissal of the complaint of Cornelia Otis Skinner in the injunction proceeding instituted by her against Paramount Pictures, the company reported here yesterday. Miss Skinner and Emily Kimbrough sought to restrain Paramount from making a fictional sequel to the motion picture "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay," in which Miss Skinner and Miss Kimbrough would be depicted as characters.

On a prior application for a temporary injunction, Justice Valente of the Supreme Court of New York had ruled in favor of Paramount. Louis Nizer was counsel for Paramount.

Balaban at Ladd Lunch

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Alan Ladd, star of Paramount's "Salty O'Rourke," and his wife, Sue Carol, were honored at a luncheon here last weekend at the Drake Hotel, while en route to Hollywood following a tour of service hospitals for the USO. Magazine and newspaper writers and theatre executives attended, and Barney Balaban, president of Paramount, stopped in on his way from New York to the Coast. Also present were John, Harry, Dave and Eddie Balaban; William Hollander of Balaban and Katz.

Set Decorators Meet To Plan Next Move

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Set Decorators Local 1421 met here tonight to determine a course of action in the event that the producers failed to set a date for the immediate opening of negotiations under a War Labor Board decision conferring jurisdiction over studio set decorators upon this union.

It is understood that the first move, should the producers fail to act favorably tonight, would be to appeal to the WLB to order compliance.

Hartman Testimonial

CINCINNATI, Feb. 26.—The local Variety Club gave a testimonial dinner in the club's quarters tonight honoring Harry Hartman, who is completing his 16th year as sportscaster for WCPO, Scripps-Howard station.

GLOBE TICKET
COMPANY
154 W. 14th ST. N. Y. C.
Phone WAtkins 9-1486
PROMPT SERVICE
AS USUAL

Mobilize Field for Red Cross Fund

Reports of full local film industry cooperation and organization for the Red Cross War Fund theatre collections, March 15-21, reached industry drive headquarters here yesterday, based on field meetings being conducted by distributor and exhibitor national drive representatives.

In New York City the drive will be given a send-off at the Statue of Liberty in Times Square, Wednesday, March 14, according to plans set by the New York Metropolitan area publicity committee. Parades have also been set for Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens, while other boroughs and Westchester are all planning activities to jibe with the Times Square demonstration.

More than 100 salesmen and exhibitors heard Martin Smith and E. M. Schnitzer at a meeting held Sunday at the Kirkwood Hotel in Des Moines at which three war heroes also spoke. D. C. Kennedy, distributor committee chairman, reported that 305 local area theatres had already pledged their support to the drive and 72 others were expected to be heard from before the end of this week.

250 in Albany

In Albany 250 members of the industry gathered for a "kick off" luncheon at the Hotel Ten Eyck, hearing Ben Kalmenson, Major Leslie Thompson, and Lt. Alexander Sable.

Si Fabian, Abe Montague and Arthur Frudenfeld led a meeting in Cincinnati attended by over 150 industry leaders in that area which marked an unprecedented 95 per cent exhibitor representation.

All 433 theatres in the Memphis area will take part in the drive as a result of a meeting conducted by Tom J. Connors and R. J. O'Donnell with local leaders. Connors and O'Donnell also conducted a meeting in Dallas.

N. Peter Rathvon, chairman of the industry's drive, and William A. Scully were principal speakers at a meeting of more than 160 industry representatives in the Washington area.

Connecticut theatre owners were present at a meeting at the Hotel Taft in New Haven, conducted by Kalmenson and Major Thompson, and the report is that the territory is nearly 100 per cent pledged.

About 110 exhibitors and salesmen of the Salt Lake City territory were mobilized at a luncheon at the Hotel Utah, addressed by Herman Wobber.

20,000 at Hollywood Red Cross Meetings

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Following a noon-hour mass meeting at eight major studios attended by an estimated total of 20,000 workers, the Red Cross campaign was launched here by drive Chairman Walter Wanger, who said, "The sooner this job is done, the greater the results will be." On a half-hour broadcast, piped from station KFWB, Stanton Griffis spoke by shortwave from Honolulu, stressing increasing Red Cross responsibilities as the Allies approach the Japanese homeland. Claudette Colbert, Robert Young, Ann Baxter and George Murphy appeared in the radio show, provided by the Hollywood Writers Mobilization and the Hollywood Victory Committee.

Review

"It's a Pleasure"

[*RKO-International*]

Hollywood, Feb. 26

INTERNATIONAL'S second musical and its fourth release via RKO Radio, combines enough tried-and-true ingredients to indicate that a public which likes to pay for the type of show this is will not regret doing so once more.

"It's a Pleasure" has a title lending itself to a wide assortment of advertising and merchandising approaches. It has rich and tasteful production assets, a good musical score built around the well known Walter Donaldson-Edgar Leslie number, "Romance," and fine color photography. But above all—and considerably above all—it has the piquant Sonja Henie performing her wondrous deeds on skates and after ten previous films in black-and-white, now in Technicolor. It's a point to be emphasized.

When "It's a Pleasure" is on ice, it ranks with the best in its own field. When it is off ice and fighting its way through outworn and over-familiar story content, it fares less fortunately.

This is about Michael O'Shea, a likeable fellow and a whirlwind on the ice; in fact, he is a champ in professional hockey. From afar, Miss Henie admires him. When he is permanently disqualified by hitting the referee to hard and too often, she stands by him as others look the other way. Eventually, they marry and tour the country in an ice carnival. They are pretty happy, too, and would have remained that way if not for the designs of Marie McDonald, wife of Bill Johnson, owner of the show.

She is after O'Shea and, when she cannot get him, fixes it so that no one else can by getting him plastered to a fine point of absorption. Unable to appear that night, he quits. Presumably he goes off with Miss Mc. and steps out of Sonia's life as she goes up the usual ladder of fame, fortune and bright marquee lights. Meanwhile, O'Shea has redeemed himself by taking a bunch of under-privileged kids in hand. Eventually, as the audience will want it, the two get together for the clinch.

Acting jobs are perfunctory, but what is pivotal about "It's a Pleasure" is the spectacle it unfolds. It's an eye-filling cocktail of beauty for Miss Henie and her wizardry on skates. Thousands of people have coughed up hundreds of thousands of dollars to see her in person and at fancy prices. At prevailing admissions in picture houses, the film becomes a bargain buy for those who want what this provides.

William A. Seiter directed, David Lewis produced, with Don Loper as associate producer. As the individual who designed costumes, choreography and the ice ballet, it is to Loper that chief credit belongs.

Running time, 90 mins. General classification. Release date not set.

RED KANN

Reagan Talks to Para. Phila. Meet

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 26.—"Bring on the Girls" has been set for general release on March 30 by Paramount, Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution, today informed the company's district sales meeting at the Warwick Hotel. A number of day-and-date bookings will be given the picture in key cities, Reagan said. In advance of general release, there will be several pre-release engagements, first of which will be at the New York Paramount Theatre, where the picture will open on Wednesday.

Outlining the advertising campaign on "Bring on the Girls," R. M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director, said that "again Paramount will sell color with color." Full-color advertising insertions in Sunday newspaper comic and roto sections will break in 36 key cities, coinciding with local openings or a week in advance. First of these will be a page in the *New York Sunday Mirror* comic section of March 4. A page in roto will also be used in the *Louisville Courier Journal*. Most of the other insertions will be half pages. Full pages in color are also appearing in all fan magazines, and there will be one-column advertisements in nine national magazines.

Services for McGurn

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Feb. 26.—Funeral services were held here today for Gerald J. McGurn, with Eastman Kodak for 19 years and a Navy veteran of World War I, who died at the age of 50.

Stage Door Canteen To Mark 3rd Year

The American Theatre Wing's Stage Door Canteen will mark three years of operation on Thursday, during which time 1,096 shows were performed in as many days, with 9,720 acts put on by 38,360 entertainers, James Sauter, entertainment committee chairman, reported yesterday at a luncheon at Sardi's for the press.

Theatre Wing Stage Door Canteens have been established in Washington, Philadelphia, Boston, Cleveland and San Francisco, and in London and in liberated Paris, where Stage Doors were recently opened. All branches of the entertainment world, including screen, stage, radio, vaudeville, music and allied crafts are represented in the Theatre Wing's setup. In addition to Sauter, Brock Pemberton and George Heller are on the entertainment committee.

Mono. 6-Month Net Totals $67,842.

(*Continued from page* 1)

period in 1943. The total consolidated net was $196,006, against $147,651, but taxes of $128,163 trimmed this figure.

According to the president, W. Ray Johnston, domestic sales showed a 43 per cent increase over the previous identical six months, while foreign sales rose 61 percent over the same period. He said the investment in 15 completed but unreleased negatives is "substantially higher" than at any previous time.

Congressmen Fight For Curfew Ease-up

(*Continued from page* 1)

few will achieve no conservation in Southern California.

Meanwhile, War Manpower Commission officials disclosed that the effect of the closing of "swing-shift" theatres upon night-shift employment in war production centers will be watched, and intimated that if the closing down of entertainment spots in those areas adversely affects war production it may be necessary to adopt remedial measures.

A spokesman for the WMC said that Brynes wants the order carried out rigidly and no action toward easing the curfew will be taken until experience demonstrates its necessity.

So far, it was said, if any protests against the curfew have come in from exhibitors they have not reached officials going over the mail turned over to WMC by the Office of War Mobilization when Byrnes shifted enforcement of the order.

Chicago To Start Earlier, Drop Shorts

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Leading theatre circuit executives at a meeting here failed to agree on a plan to switch key neighborhood houses to single feature programs Saturdays and Sundays to meet the midnight curfew. Balaban and Katz, Warner Bros. and the Essaness Circuit are principally affected weekends when their double bills run to 1:30 A.M. It is understood the curfew will be met by an earlier starting time and by elimination of short subjects.

Top product, however, will be run as single features but for the full length of the theatres' playing date, customarily a week in leading houses. Such pictures as "Hollywood Canteen" and "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" are currently single billed in "A" neighborhood houses.

Week to Adjust to Midnight Curfew

Although the midnight Federal curfew became effective last night, individual establishments in this area will have a week to adjust themselves to the new order, according to an agreement arrived at between Mayor LaGuardia and Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, regional director of the War Manpower Commission. "Complete compliance" will be expected by Monday, March 5, they announced.

Gen. Smith, 67, Dies

Brig.-Gen. Joseph Smith, U. S. Army, retired, 67, father of Edward Smith, MOTION PICTURE DAILY staff member, died here yesterday after a long illness. General Smith was a veteran of three wars, the Spanish American, World Wars I and II. Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

Services for Mrs. Mayo

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Funeral services will be held tomorrow at Hollywood Cemetery Chapel for Mrs. Lucile Mayo, wife of Archie Mayo, who died Saturday night after a brief illness.

Ettinger to Home Office

George Ettinger, former New England area exploiteer for Columbia, has been promoted to handle radio publicity for the home office.

RKO GOES LATIN-

ALL THE BIGGEST AND THE BEST FOR EXTRA THRILL!

- ★ ROSARIO & ANTONIO — World-famed wizards of the dance!
- ★ MIGUELITO VALDES — Top-flight Cuban night-club star!
- ★ HAROLD & LOLA — Sensational in their "Snake Dance"!
- ★ LOUISE BURNETT — Amazing voice—hits C above high C!
- ★ CHINITA MARIN — Porto Rican queen of sultry song!
- ★ CHUY CASTILLON & PADILLA SISTERS — Mexico's marvelous singing trio!
- ★ CHUY REYES AND HIS ORCH: — Keyboard king of the Rhumba!
- ★ NESTOR AMARAL & BRAZILIAN SAMBA BAND — See why his records are best sellers!

Pan

PHILLIP TERRY · AUDR LON

ERNEST TRUEX · MAR CRAM

RKO RADIO PICTURES

WATCH FOR THE PRESS BOOK! USE IT!
RED CROSS DRIVE — MARCH 15-21

ON THE TORRID SIDE!

—With a red-hot rhumba-samba-jamboree of rocking rhythm and radiant romance — in a laugh and love show keyed to the highest pitch of eye-and-ear excitement!

Americana

7 SIZZLING TUNES BY
ARY BARROSO
MARGARITA LECUONA
GABRIEL RUIZ
PEPE GUIZAR
CARLOS CASTELLANOS
ANTONIO FERNANDEZ
BOBBY COLLAZO

ROBERT NCHLEY · EVE ARDEN

ABELITA • Produced and Directed by JOHN H. AUER • Screen Play by Lawrence Kimble

Coast Filming Still Rising; Now Up to 49

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Production activity continues to rise, with seven new features started and five others completed, bringing the shooting index up to 49, compared with 47 in the previous week. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Shooting: "Blonde from Brooklyn," "Surprise in the Night," "Over 21," "Kiss and Tell" (Sol Siegel).

M-G-M

Finished: "Her Highness and the Bellboy," "Weekend at the Waldorf."
Started: "Dangerous Partners," with James Craig, Signe Hasso, Edmund Gwenn, Audrey Totter, John Warburton, Felix Bressart.
Shooting: "Early to Wed," "Yolanda and the Thief," "The Harvey Girls."

Monogram

Finished: "Come Out Fighting."
Started: "Divorce," with Kay Francis, Bruce Cabot, Helen Mack.

Paramount

Shooting: "Follow That Woman" (Pine-Thomas), "The Well-Groomed Bride," "You Came Along" (Hal Wallis), "Masquerade in Mexico," "Cross My Heart."

PRC

Started: "Highway to Hell," with Hugh Beaumont, Charles D. Brown, Russell Hicks, Pierre Watkin, Bud Buster, Eva Novak; "Why Girls Leave Home" (Sam Sax), with Lola Lane, Sheldon Leonard, Pamela Blake.

RKO Radio

Finished: "Those Endearing Young Charms."
Started: "Falcon in San Francisco," with Tom Conway, Rita Corday, Robert Armstrong, Fay Helm, Ed Brophy, George Holmes.
Shooting: "Mama Loves Papa," "First Man Into Tokyo," "The Most Dangerous Game," "George White's Scandals of 1945," "Man Alive," "The Spanish Main," "Invisible Army."

Republic

Started: "Marshal of Laredo," with Bill Elliott, Bobby Blake, Alice Fleming.
Shooting: "Scotland Yard Investigator," "Girls of the Big House," "The Amazing Mr. M."

20th Century-Fox

Started: "Within These Walls," with Thomas Mitchell, Mary Anderson, Edward Ryan, Stephen Richards, Roy Roberts, B. S. Pully.
Shooting: "Dragonwyck," "Junior Miss," "Don Juan Quilligan" (formerly "Two-Faced Quilligan"), "The Dolly Sisters," "State Fair," "Captain Eddie" (Eureka Pictures), "Ten Little Indians" (Popular Pictures, Inc.)

United Artists

Shooting: "Paris—Underground" (Bennett); "Captain Kidd" (Bogeaus); "Young Widow" (Stromberg).

Universal

Finished: "Strange Confession."
Shooting: "Men in Her Diary," "The Naughty Nineties," "Lady on a Train," "A Night in Paradise."

Warners

Shooting: "Stolen Life," "Shadow of a Woman," "Too Young to Know," "This Love of Ours," "Mildred Pierce," "Three Strangers."

Set Jurisdiction Over Television Now: Woods

(*Continued from page* 1)

was suggested by Mark Woods, president of the Blue Network, in an interview with MOTION PICTURE DAILY here yesterday. Woods, other Blue Network officials, and representatives of the trade press, were here in connection with the first telecast of the web's "Ladies Be Seated" air show over the facilities of General Electric's telecaster, WRGB.

Unions involved would be the IATSE, American Federation of Musicians, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, 4A actors' unions, including American Federation of Radio Artists, Screen Actors Guild and Actors Equity, and the National Association of Broadcast Engineers and Technicians, among others.

Call or Green

Woods pointed out that since most of the unions involved are affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, William Green, AFL president, should be called upon to straighten out pending jurisdictional rows. Without the problems of which unions are to have jurisdiction over what particular tasks, the industry would be better able to plan its future activities, said Woods. The unions would be asked to set pay scales on a basis which takes cognizance of the fact that present activities in television are not productive of any revenue.

Officials of other networks are also understood to welcome a definite determination now of union jurisdiction in television. Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president recently pointed out in an interview with MOTION PICTURE DAILY that IATSE intends to seek wide jurisdiction in television, indicating a possible dispute with the IBEW, another AFL international union, as well as the NABET.

Television stations have already been under pressure from the American Federation of Musicians to set wage scales now, and a controversy looms between the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Radio Artists, over talent. Columbia Broadcasting is training technicians with the aid of the IBEW, and NABET members are in many cases operating projection machines in television stations using films.

The Blue Network's experiment of putting some of its radio shows on television will be continued tonight when it starts a weekly series of telecasts on "On Stage, Everybody" over the facilities of DuMont in New York. Arrangements are being worked out to put Blue shows originating in Chicago over the facilities of Balaban and Katz's station there.

150 Present

The studio of WRGB, one of the largest in use and providing facilities for three cameras simultaneously, had an audience of 150 last night.

Blue officials believe that the present radio-show format, especially audience participation programs, can be easily adapted to television programs. GE technicians were enthusiastic about the television performances of Johnny Olsen, who is the show's master-of-ceremonies. The show provided considerable variety of specialties confined to one set with the participating audience always before the cameras. The Blue's television activities are being supervised by Paul Mowrey.

Selznick Refused Leigh Injunction

LONDON, Feb. 26.—Justice Romer of the British High Court today refused David O. Selznick's application, through counsel, for an injunction to restrain Vivien Leigh's appearance in a stage play here, saying that Selznick's remedy lies in an action for damages for breach of contract, adding that in his judgment, an original contract was so stringent that no injunction is possible within its terms. Moreover, he said, Selznick, in fact, gave Miss Leigh permission on previous occasions to appear in other peoples' productions and there is no evidence now before the court to achieve a compromise on the basis of Miss Leigh entering a new contract with Selznick beginning in 1946.

Opinion here is that the play, "The Skin of Our Teeth," which Miss Leigh's husband, Laurence Olivier, will produce next month, has received incalculable publicity, especially in view of the judge's remark: "Selznick has acquired a rare, delicate and somewhat exotic plant and claims there is risk in endangering its bloom if other hands tend it."

American Seating, NTS in 'Co-op' Deal

(*Continued from page* 1)

disclosed here yesterday by A. J. Lindsley, advertising manager of National.

The sales and service of the new "combined operations" will be handled by the 28 district offices of National, operating in conjunction with American Seating theatre chair specialists working from their many offices throughout the country, it was said.

Facilities of American Seating's factory at Grand Rapids, Mich., are being utilized to a great extent in the production of war products. Approximately 3,000 are turning out large quantities of tank seats, seats for Victory and Liberty ships, for Thunderbolt and other aircraft, as well as large quantities of wood and metal airplane wings, fuselage and other parts. At the same time, development and distribution problems, including seating needs of the theatre industry, are getting attention.

Moss Joins Abbott

Jack Moss, producer, whose last film was "Mr. Winkle Goes to War" for Columbia, has concluded negotiations with George Abbott in New York, to join him in the production of "Snafu" to be made independently for Columbia.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Feb. 26

PRODUCER-director Andrew Stone's next will be "Petticoat Lane," based on a two-reel film which Stone produced in 1926. The original was released by Paramount and starred Tyrone Power, Phillip De Lacey and Gladys Brockwell. . . . Robert Paige has been selected by writer-producers Michael Fessier and Ernest Pagano to co-star with Susanna Foster in Universal's "Once Upon a Dream," which Charles Lamont will direct.

•

Angela Greene has been given an important role in Warners' "The Time, the Place and the Girl." . . . "So Dark Is the Night," original by Aubrey Wisberg, has been acquired by Columbia and will be used as the basis for one of the studio's "Whistler" series. . . . Napoleon Simpson has been added to the cast of "Divorce," current Monogram film starring Kay Francis.

•

Universal has exercised its option on director Robert Siodmak and producer Edmund L. Hartmann . . . . Republic has signed Ann Dvorak to a long-term deal calling for her appearance in two pictures a year. . . . Howard Da Silva will have a featured role in Paramount's "The Blue Dahlia" . . . . James B. Cassidy has acquired film rights to Lewis Browne's novel "See What I Mean" . . . . William Beaudine has been signed to direct "Serenade for Murder," for Universal. . . . Tala Birell has been added to the cast of Republic's "Girls of the Big House" . . . . Charles K. Freeman, writer-director under contract to M-G-M, has been given a leave of absence to stage a new musical comedy in New York.

•

Otto Preminger, 20th Century-Fox producer, will make O. Henry's famous short story, "Gift of the Magi," as a color musical, and is currently negotiating with Leonard Bernstein to write the music and Ogden Nash the lyrics for the feature. . . . Marcy McGuire and Glenn Vernon will have two of the top roles in "Ding Dong Williams," comedy with music slated to start soon at RKO.

•

Steve Cochran, whose contract is shared by Columbia and Samuel Goldwyn, has been selected to play one of the male leads in "The Gay Senorita," Columbia musical which Jay Gorney will produce and Arthur Dreifuss will direct. . . . Bob Haymes has been signed by M-G-M for the romantic lead opposite Frances Rafferty in "Abbott and Costello in Hollywood."

•

Republic has purchased an untitled murder mystery by Arnold Phillip and Maria Solveg. It will be Herman Millakowsky's second high-budget production for the studio. . . . 20th Century-Fox has exercised its option on Anne Baxter. . . . Rosalind Ivan has been signed by Universal for a featured role in "Pillow of Death," which will star Lon Chaney.

•

Walter Wanger has signed a new long-term producing deal with Universal, calling for two top budget productions annually.

Cliff Work Heads 'U' Advisory Board

(Continued from page 1)

John Joseph, national director of publicity-advertising; Harold Brewster, comptroller, and Dan Kelley and Robert Speers.

The studio also announced several promotions. Kelley, who has been in charge of talent, writers and directors, assumes a new executive post in relation to all top-budget productions. He will act as liaison between the new advisory board and all producers of Universal's top productions, including Walter Wanger and Felix Jackson, as well as production executives Howard Benedict, Milton Feld, Joseph Gershenson and Frank Ryan.

Speers, "U" casting director, succeeds Kelley as executive in charge of talent and directors; a successor to Speers will be announced later.

George Bole will coordinate the activities of production executives Edward Dodds, Robert Faber, Ben Piver, Milton Schwarzwald and Howard Welsch.

In announcing the creation of the advisory board, N. J. Blumberg, Universal president, said: "We are constantly increasing the number of top productions, adding each year to our overall budget, extending in every detail the scope of our activities. This new arrangement has been made to simplify and strengthen our studio's executive operation."

Memphis Salesmen Hurt in Accidents

MEMPHIS, Feb. 26.—Four film salesmen of the Memphis territory were involved in accidents, one which proved fatal for a small Arkansas boy.

Bert Weil, Warner salesman, plunged his car into a ditch trying to avoid 11-year-old Robert Jones at Walnut Ridge, Ark. The boy was struck and died, and Weil is in Campbell Clinic, here, with a fractured leg. Robert Bowers, M-G-M salesman, suffered an injured nose when his car overturned near Ruleville, Miss.; Jack Arnold of Columbia, is in a Little Rock Hospital with a fractured rib suffered when his car overturned; and James Pope, also Columbia, is undergoing treatment for facial cuts suffered when a Memphis street car on which he was riding collided with another.

Sees 150 Telecasters

At least 150 active television stations will be operating in the nation's larger cities within five years after the war, according to James D. McLean of General Electric.

Rejects Barry Film

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 26.—Monogram has turned down a proposition for production or distribution of a feature starring Joan Barry.

REEVES
SOUND STUDIOS, INC.
1600 BROADWAY, N. Y. 19 Circle 6-6686
Complete Film and
Disc Recording Facilities

Big Grosses Here; Little Effect of Curfew Seen

(Continued from page 1)

and are expected to give a good indication of the extent the Broadway first-runs will be hit by the curfew. Managers yesterday would not hazard a guess on overall losses anticipated since most of them believe that they will attract most of their regular business within the allotted hours of operation. Presumably there will be some loss of revenue on Sundays when theatres will not be able to give more than four complete shows.

Outstanding business on the street in the current week's estimated receipts appears to be at Radio City Music Hall where a terrific $121,000 is expected for the fifth week of "A Song to Remember" and a stage show. "Guest in the House," at the Capitol, and "Hangover Square," at the Roxy are also drawing heavily in final weeks. "Guest in the House" will bring $78,000 or better for its second and final week at the Capitol. Ordinarily it would hold over but a prior booking will bring "The Picture of Dorian Gray" and an M-G-M 'in person' show, including Lena Horne, Robert Walker and Xavier Cugat and his orchestra into that house on Thursday. "Hangover Square" is expected to bring the Roxy a heavy $90,000 for its third and final week, with a prior booking bringing "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" and a stage bill featuring Victor Borge and Joan Edwards in tomorrow.

"The Princess and the Pirate" is continuing to record business at the Astor with a lusty $36,000 expected for its third week, following a second week's gross of more than $40,000. "The Three Caballeros," at the Globe, and "The Woman in the Window," at the Palace, also continue to draw big. The Globe expects a neat $27,000 for the fourth week of "Caballeros" and the Palace is headed for a standout $26,000 for the fifth week of "Woman the Window."

The Paramount will conclude a third and final week for "Ministry of Fear" with a profitable $58,000; "Bring on the Girls" and a stage show with Ella Fitzgerald, the Ink Spots and 'Cootie' Williams and band will open there tomorrow. A big fifth and final week of $50,000 is expected by the Strand for "Objective Burma"; "Hotel Berlin" will open there Friday with a stage presentation featuring Carmen Cavallaro and band.

"The Keys of the Kingdom" is continuing sturdily at the Rivoli, with a good $29,000 expected for its ninth week. "The Fighting Lady" is continuing to draw well at the Victoria; $19,000 is expected for the sixth week. "Roughly Speaking" is expected to bring a mild $18,500 in its fourth week at the Hollywood.

"Here Come the Co-Eds" is drawing profitable receipts at the Criterion with a good $30,000 expected for the second week. "Mr. Emmanuel" is holding up well at the Gotham with $9,500 expected for the eighth week. Second and final week of "Frisco Sal" at the Rialto is expected to bring $7,000; "Crime Doctor's Courage" will open there Friday. "The Big Bonanza" will bring a quiet $3,800 in its first week at the Republic; it will hold.

OWI Production May Shift to Hollywood

Contemplated shift of emphasis of Office of War Information documentary film production from New York to Hollywood, may result from conferences with several producers there, Robert Riskin, chief of the OWI overseas motion picture bureau, said before his departure at the weekend for the West Coast. He will seek to engage them for the filming of documentaries.

While in Hollywood, Riskin will also look over four films now in production, two 'specials,' details of which he cannot reveal, plus "Elections in Wartime, U. S." and an untitled film based on a radio script by Norman Corwin. In production in New York are: "Library of Congress," "Northwest, USA" a U. S. Public Health film; "Autobiography of a Bulldozer," and a documentary devoted to the development of American music. Riskin will return here in two weeks.

Critics' Awards Delayed

Presentation of awards by the Foreign Language Press Film Critics' Circle to Paramount for "Going My Way," and to the War Activities Committee of the industry for furnishing films to the Armed Forces, has been postponed to March 2. Presentations will be made at the Municipal Building, and broadcast over WNYC with Arthur Israel of Paramount and Francis Harmon of the WAC present.

Netter Heads South, To Attend N.C. Meet

Leon D. Netter, vice-president of left here yesterday for Charlotte, Atlanta and Jacksonville, to confer with Paramount theatre associates.

In Charlotte, Netter will attend the annual meeting of North Carolina Theatres, Inc., of which H. F. Kincey is general manager. He will then go to Atlanta for conferences with R. B. Wilby, head of Wilby-Kincey Theatres, and William K. Jenkins, president and general manager of Lucas and Jenkins Theatres. In Jacksonville he will meet with Frank Rogers, president of Florida State Theatres, and B. B. Garner, general manager of Paramount Enterprises of Miami.

Cincinnati Exhibitors Name Officers, Board

CINCINNATI, Feb. 26.—Ralph Kinsler, general manager of the Shard circuit, and chief barker of the local Variety Club, has been elected secretary-treasurer of the Greater Cincinnati Independent Exhibitors Association, succeeding Harold Bernstein, who has moved to California. Re-elected were F. W. Huss, Jr. president and Louis Wiethe, vice president.

Directors, in addition to the officers were re-elected, as follows: Maurice Chase, Willard Gervers, Maurice White and Willis Vance. Vance also was re-elected to head the Indignant Exhibitors Forum committee.

Clearance Dropped On Fair Theatre

Vincent J. Malone, arbitrator in the New York arbitration tribunal, ruling on a clearance complaint filed by Fair Operating Corp., operating the Fair Theatre, Jackson Heights, against the five consenting companies, has eliminated the seven days clearance of the Granada Theatre, Corona, operated by Skouras Theatres Corp., over the Fair, the American Arbitration Association reported here. This pertains only to Paramount, RKO, Loew's, and Warner product, 20th Century-Fox having been eliminated from the proceedings on a motion granted to dismiss the complaint against that company because it licenses pictures to the Granada pursuant to a franchise entered into by 20th-Fox with Skouras Theatres on Nov. 2, 1931, and subsequently extended to 1948.

Further, the arbitrator ruled, maximum clearance which may be granted to the Granada over the Polk, operated by Jupo Amusement, Inc., on Paramount, RKO, Loew's and Warner pictures, shall be one day.

Anora Amusement Corp., operating the Palace, Queens, intervened, but subsequently withdrew from the case.

CAB Adding Network Executives to Board

Edgar Kobak, president of Mutual Broadcasting System; Chester J. LaRoche, vice-chairman of the board of directors of Blue Network; Frank E. Mullen, vice-president and general manager of National Broadcasting; and Frank Stanton, vice-president of Columbia Broadcasting, have been nominated to the board of governors of the Cooperative Analysis of Broadcasting.

Up to the present, CAB's governors were solely representatives of advertisers and agencies.

Reel-Fellows Dance

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 26.—The second annual dinner-dance of the Reel-Fellows Club, local organization of film salesmen, will be held on the second or third Saturday in March, it has been announced by president Joe Loeffler. A dinner will also be held, at the Nicollet Hotel.

'Tree' Birthday Special

"A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," which will have its world premiere on Feb. 28 at the Roxy theatre, here, has been designated a 20th Century-Fox '30th Anniversary' special, scheduled for April.

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Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 40 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1945 TEN CENTS

All Theatres Comply with Byrnes' Order

First Reports Indicate No Great Protest

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—War Mobilization Board Director James F. Byrnes' midnight curfew on amusements got its initial workout last night, with first reports reaching Washington indicating no great protest and few violations of the 12 o'clock closing rule.

Most of the violations occurred in drinking and dancing places; no reports have been received of the failure of any theatre to close as required, officials said after surveying the early reports.

One of the "other savings" which Byrnes said would result from the curfew may come in the shape of paper, as many newspapers discontinue the printing of "night owl" editions because few people will be on the

(Continued on page 7)

Producers Protest SDU Jurisdiction

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 27.—The producers today wired the National War Labor Board to set aside the decision of arbitrator Thomas Tongue, who gave Set Decorators local 1421 jurisdiction in preference to IATSE, on the ground that Tongue's ruling was outside the scope of the board's machinery.

Herbert Sorrell, on behalf of the Conference of Studio Unions, meanwhile is insistent that the original

(Continued on page 2)

Cinema Lodge Cites Harry Brandt Here

Harry Brandt, New York independent exhibitor, became the third recipient of the Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith "Honor Scroll" at a joint open meeting with the newly-formed Cinema Ladies Auxiliary at Pythian Temple here last night. Previous recipients were Barney Balaban and Samuel Rinzler.

S. H. Fabian, War Activities Committee theatre division chairman, pre-

(Continued on page 7)

Nazi Film Was Much Too 'Anticipatory'

Footage captured from a German cameraman and intended to arouse Nazi home front enthusiasm over Von Runstedt's "offensive," instead will be released in an OWI-WAC information film for the U. S. home front.

The footage was captured by Americans who seized it before the prisoner could destroy it. It will be seen for the first time in a War Department subject, "The Enemy Strikes," for release on March 15. Scenes of Nazi troops smoking American cigarettes, stolen from dead American soldiers, are included.

New Demands By 'Lab' Help

Additional demands by the IATSE Motion Picture Laboratory Technicians for a new contract for some 1,800 laboratory workers in about 20 film processing companies in this area, include the doubling of the present number of job classifications; wage increases by upgrading employes; and severance pay.

A previous proposal by the union's negotiating committee asks the companies to set aside a sum equivalent to five per cent on their weekly payrolls to provide retirement and other benefits, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Monday. Contracts

(Continued on page 7)

US Tax Drops $7,000,000

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—A drop of nearly $7,000,000 in Federal admission tax collections between December and January was disclosed tonight by the Internal Revenue Bureau, which reported that receipts last month, representing December box office business, were $24,345,560, compared with $31,182,977 in the preceding month.

January collections, for December business, however, were nearly $8,000,000 above the $16,744,936 received in the same month last year, and they in turn were $5,000,000 above the $11,728,489 secured in the initial month in 1943, Bureau records show.

Reflecting the effect of the increase in rates last April, collections for the first seven months of the Government's fiscal year were reported by the Bureau as $211,364,150, compared with $108,536,640 secured in the cor-

(Continued on page 2)

$5,000,000 Is Seen For March of Dimes

March of Dimes officials at national drive headquarters, here, yesterday made known 1945 returns for the first four states, chairman Nicholas M. Schenck announcing the following totals: North Carolina (F. H. Leddingfield reporting for chairman Roy Rowe), $90,852, against $54,476 in 1944, an increase of 67 per cent; Florida (M. C. Talley, chairman) $111,-

(Continued on page 7)

U. S. to Seek Trial Date On New Decree

Will Act at Clearance Hearing Here Monday

Notice was filed by the Department of Justice in U. S. District Court here yesterday that it intends to ask Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard next Monday to set a date for trial of its petition for amendment of the industry consent decree, involving divorcement and dissolution of affiliated circuits.

The motion was served on Columbia, United Artists and Universal as well as the five "decree companies." The motion will be made in connection with the already scheduled hearing for Monday on the Government's application for elimination of clearance between theatres charging comparable admission prices, a proposal advanced as an *ad interim* amendment to the decree to remain in force pending trial of the action for a new de-

(Continued on page 7)

Film Managers Are Rescued in Manila

Cliff Almy, veteran manager for Warner Bros. in the Philippines, and Mrs. Almy, were among the Americans rescued by our troops in the daring raid on the Jap prison camp at Santo Tomas, Manila. The couple, who had been prisoners since early 1942, were reported in fair condition.

Al Daff, vice-president of Universal International Films, has received word here that Larry DePrida, Mrs. De-

(Continued on page 2)

Fewer Projectors Are in Sight for Third Quarter

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Preliminary discussions of third-quarter film equipment allocations began here today with indications by the WPB that unless there is a quick and now unanticipated improvement in the supply situation, fewer projectors and other machines will be put into production after July 1 than have been scheduled in the current and second quarters.

Stepped-up demands for war production and reduced supplies due to the bad weather which has prevailed since the turn of the year have necessitated a cut of nearly one-fourth in the total amount of carbon steel available for the production of durable goods during the second quarter, it was disclosed by the War Production Board. How much of a cut will be imposed upon material for the production of theatre booth equipment has not yet been determined.

Should the present shortage of steel continue over a period of months it is possible that it might affect booth equipment along about the third quarter of 1945, but inventories authorized a year-and-a-half ago are adequate to meet such needs as may then arise.

WPB officials, however, emphasized that all applications for equipment will be carefully screened to insure that it goes to houses where its need is most essential. Little or no new equipment will be authorized for new theatres now building, until the situation improves, it was said.

Schiffrin to Paris On Film Problems

Simon Schiffrin, film bureau representative here of the French Press and Information Service, is scheduled to leave this week for France to confer with Jean Painleve, French film committee head, and M. Teitgen, French minister of information, on problems mutually affecting the French film industries. He will be gone five to six weeks.

Scheduled for discussion are prob-

(Continued on page 7)

Personal Mention

ARTHUR KRIM, on leave to the Army from the New York law firm of Phillips, Nizer, Benjamin and Krim, has been promoted to lieutenant-colonel. Stationed at Washington, Krim is special labor and management representative to Under-Secretary of War Robert Patterson and Lt.-Gen. Brehon Somerville.

•

TED LLOYD, 20th-Fox home office radio promotion director, is in Chicago, en route to Hollywood on the company's 30th anniversary radio plans.

•

DAVID DAVIDSON, until his retirement with 20th Century-Fox in Cleveland, and MRS. DAVIDSON, are observing their 50th wedding anniversary.

•

JOHN KALAFAT, Associated Circuit president, and P. E. ESSICK, Scoville, Essick and Reif partner, both of Cleveland, have gone to Miami Beach.

•

JAMES COSTON, Warner Theatres' zone manager in Chicago, has returned from a rest at his home in Eagle River, Wis.

•

WILLIAM BORACK, assistant to HARRY DAVID, head of Northio Theatres, Ohio, is in New York for a few days.

•

JACK LIEB, News of the Day war cameraman, addressed the Chicago Rotary Club yesterday.

•

ISADOR M. RAPPAPORT, Baltimore Hippodrome Theatre owner, has returned from Florida.

•

JOHN ASH, M-G-M traveling auditor, is at the Cleveland exchange for two weeks, from New York.

Schaefer to See WPB On Stock Allocation

George Schaefer, chairman of the War Activities Committee, and industry liaison with the War Production Board on raw stock, will leave here for Washington tonight for conferences tomorrow with Stanley B. Adams, head of the consumers durable goods division of the WPB, on second quarter raw stock allocations for the industry.

Schaefer will also consult with representatives of the Foreign Economic Administration on raw stock for American film releases in Sweden.

Frohlich in Post of Late 'Bob' Murray

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers announced yesterday that Richard F. Frohlich, assistant to the late Robert L. Murray, will carry on the work of the public relations department.

Virginia Shea has assumed the position of editor of ASCAP's radio program service.

Pittsburgh, Other Regions Near 100% for Red Cross

N. Peter Rathvon, national chairman of the industry's Red Cross War Fund Week, March 15-21, speaking at a gathering of 150 exhibitor-distributor representatives in Pittsburgh this week, commended the area for fast approaching 100 per cent in pledges of campaign participation. Out of 605 theatres, 601 had signed up, M. A. Silver, exhibitor chairman, informed the gathering. Other speakers included W. A. Scully and Arthur Mayer, deputy commissioner of the Red Cross in the Pacific area. Peter Dana, Universal branch manager, presided.

Among other meetings held concurrently with the Pittsburgh session was one in Denver, addressed by Herman Wobber, representing the national distributors committee; A. S. Abeles, 20th Century-Fox branch manager; Robert J. Garland, president of the Rocky Mountain Screen Club, and Lieut. Ralph T. Ballard, Jr., war hero.

500 in Detroit

In Detroit, Abe Montague and Si Fabian of the national committee addressed a gathering of 500 arranged by E. J. Hudson, Ray Branch and J. W. Gins. Col. J. Tracy Hale, veteran of both world wars, also spoke.

Approximately 97 per cent of the 710 theatres in the Chicago area are pledged to the drive, John Balaban, local chairman, announced to 300 at a meeting there, addressed by national committeemen Robert Mochrie and M. A. Lightman, also Anthony L. Grasso and actors Dick Powell and Phil Regan.

Henderson M. Richey carried the committee's message to Atlanta, where because of local conditions, the campaign will be held March 25-April 1. R. H. Wilby presided. Other speakers and guests included Henry Reeves; Bobby Jones, Atlanta Red Cross chairman; O. R. Brewer, Atlanta permanent chairman; W. B. Zolner, area distributor chairman; Bernard Kamber of United Artists.

In Oklahoma City, where the pledges have reached 81 per cent, Tom Connors and R. J. O'Donnell were principal speakers. Oregon state chairman O. J. Miller presided at a rally in Portland, assisted by J. H. McIntyre, chairman of the Pacific Coast district distributors. Speakers included Mayor Earl Riley; Albert J. Finke, Oregon co-chairman of the War Activities Committee, and Budd K. Billings, wounded local Coast Guardsman.

Philadelphia Strong

Pledges from 751 of 763 houses in the Philadelphia area were announced by War Activities chairman George Schwartz at a meeting there. Among the speakers were Rathvon, Scully, Frank L. MacNamee, deputy chairman of the War Manpower Commission, and Earle W. Sweigert, area exhibitor chairman.

Montague and Fabian addressed 100 representatives in Indianapolis, where the Red Cross mobilization has been arranged by Guy Craig and Marco Wolf. At a meeting in Charlotte, it was decided to dedicate the campaign there to the memory of James Wiggins Watts, Jr., son of a Carolina theatre owner. Speakers included Richey, Reeves, Ben Rosenwald, area distributor chairman, and H. F. Kincey, exhibitor chairman.

In Omaha, 288 of 366 houses were pledged. On the program were Martin Smith; R. Harold Johnson, exhibitor chairman, and William Miskell, WAC chairman.

Federal Tax Revenue Is Off $7,000,000

(Continued from page 1)

responding period a year ago under former lower rates.

All but $4,343,699 of the January collections came from amusements, that figure representing the taxes paid by night clubs and cabarets, which in December paid $4,797,945 and in January, 1944, $1,638,296.

The drop in business experienced by the amusement industries in December was entirely outside of New York, where the special report for the Third (Broadway) District showed January collections of $4,766,726, against $4,611,188 in the preceding month, and $3,290,906 in the corresponding month last year.

Keate on Lifton Staff

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 27.—Earl Keate has been added to Lou Lifton's publicity staff at Monogram, to be in charge of pressbook exploitation. Keate spent the past four years with 20th Century-Fox, two on national exploitation assignments in the field.

Milestone and Hersh Form Superior Corp.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 27.—Lewis Milestone, David Hersh and John T. Fisher have formed Superior Pictures Corp., which will take over ownership of the recently completed "Walk in the Sun," produced and directed by Milestone for Samuel Bronston's Comstock Productions, Inc. Announcement of the new company says Superior has settled all outstanding claims, including a Comstock suit stemming from original financing. Superior spokesman said two releasing offers are under consideration.

Benny's Rest Will Delay LeRoy at WB

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 27.—Because of Jack Benny's entertainment program for the Armed Forces during the past year and his need of a rest between picture assignments, his next Warner production, "Chicken Every Sunday," has been postponed, and Mervyn LeRoy, who was to have directed, goes back to RKO to work on "The Robe."

Film Managers Are Rescued in Manila

(Continued from page 1)

Prida, their child and DePrida's mother are safe in Manila.

DePrida joined Universal in 1938 as manager for the Philippines. He and his family were interned in the Santo Tomas University with the fall of the capital. The child was born during the Jap's occupation.

Charles H. Core, United Artists manager in the Philippines, and his wife and daughter, who were taken prisoners by the Japs shortly after Pearl Harbor, were among the Americans recently liberated from the Japanese prison camps in Manila by General Douglas MacArthur's forces.

George Kallman, formerly RKO manager for Chile and more recently manager of the Phillipines, who was captured by the Japanese, is one of the Americans rescued from Santo Tomas Camp.

O'Byrne Heads New Instructional Films

TORONTO, Feb. 27.—A company to be known as Motion Picture Instructional and Educational Films, Ltd., has been formed with a federal charter and with head office in Toronto, to produce and distribute 16mm product under the direction of Frank O'Byrne, who has resigned as Toronto branch manager of Associated Screen News, Ltd., to take charge.

This is another Paul Nathanson project, intended for postwar development in what is expected to be a rapidly expanding field of theatrical, commercial and educational uses. Plans call for the erection of a studio in the Toronto district and the company will also distribute releases from Hollywood and Britain.

Lt. McBride Here on Way to Australia

Postwar theatre construction of large proportions in strategic areas in Australia was predicted yesterday by Lt. Glen McBride, RAN, former publicity director of Ozone Theatre Circuit, Adelaide.

Lt. McBride, who is visiting in New York after four years' service in England and elsewhere, will meet with Ewen and Clyde Waterman, chairman and managing director, respectively, of Ozone and S-A Theatres, Australia, who are expected in New York during March.

Producers Protest SDU Jurisdiction

(Continued from page 1)

findings be verified so that bargaining negotiations hereafter may be conducted by the producers with the Set Decorators' Union. His 48-hour ultimatum to the producers to comply expires at six p. m. tomorrow. After the ultimatum expires, Sorrell may buy newspaper space, thereby carrying the issue to the public before taking final action on a walkout.

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REPORT from the NATION!

M·G·M's

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS

TODAY'S MIRACLE OF SHOW BUSINESS

Look!→

BOX-OFFICE BY BOX-OFFICE THE MOST REMARKABLE HIT IN YEARS!

M-G-M's

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS

TOPS THEM ALL EVERYWHERE!

DETROIT . . . . . Beats "Random Harvest," "Bathing Beauty"
WASHINGTON . . . . . Beats "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "Thousands Cheer"
SAN FRANCISCO . . . Beats "White Cliffs of Dover," "Random Harvest"
MILWAUKEE . . . . . Beats "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "Thousands Cheer"
NEW ORLEANS . . . . Beats "Random Harvest," "Two Girls and a Sailor"
MINNEAPOLIS . . . . . Beats "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "A Guy Named Joe"
HOUSTON . . . . . Beats "Thousands Cheer," "Mrs. Parkington"
PORTLAND . . . . . Beats "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "Thousands Cheer"
OAKLAND . . . . . Beats "Random Harvest," "A Guy Named Joe"
COLUMBUS . . . . . Beats "White Cliffs of Dover," "Random Harvest"
ATLANTA . . . . . Beats "Thousands Cheer," "White Cliffs of Dover"
MEMPHIS . . . . . Beats "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "Bathing Beauty"
ROCHESTER . . . . . Beats "Thousands Cheer," "A Guy Named Joe"
AKRON . . . . . Beats "Thousands Cheer," "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo"
RICHMOND . . . . . Beats "Random Harvest," "Thousands Cheer"
SYRACUSE . . . . . Beats "A Guy Named Joe," "White Cliffs of Dover"
WORCESTER . . . . . Beats "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "Thousands Cheer"
NORFOLK . . . . . Beats "Two Girls and a Sailor," "Mrs. Parkington"

NEW HAVEN . . . . . Beats "White Cliffs of Dover," "Random Harvest"
NASHVILLE . . . . . Beats "Thousands Cheer," "A Guy Named Joe"
SPRINGFIELD, MASS. . . . Beats "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "Random Harvest"
CANTON . . . . . Beats "Two Girls and a Sailor," "Mrs. Parkington"
READING . . . . . Beats "Thousands Cheer," "Two Girls and a Sailor"
CHARLESTON, W. VA. . . Beats "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "White Cliffs of Dover"
RIVERSIDE, CAL. . . . . Beats "Two Girls and a Sailor," "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo"
WILLIAMSPORT, PA. . . . Beats "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "Random Harvest"
JAMESTOWN, PA. . . . . Beats "A Guy Named Joe," "White Cliffs of Dover"
EASTON, PA. . . . . Beats "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "Bathing Beauty"
BANGOR, MAINE . . . . . Beats "White Cliffs of Dover," "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo"
MEADVILLE, PA. . . . . Beats "Random Harvest," "Thousands Cheer"
KANSAS CITY. . . . . Beats "White Cliffs of Dover," "Bathing Beauty"
LOUISVILLE . . . . . Beats "Random Harvest," "A Guy Named Joe"
HARTFORD . . . . . Beats "Thousands Cheer," "Random Harvest"
HARRISBURG . . . . . Beats "Random Harvest," "White Cliffs of Dover"
GENEVA . . . . . Beats "Thousands Cheer," "Random Harvest"

PLAY SAFE! KEEP YOUR DATE BOOK WIDE-OPEN!

THE HOLD-OVER ATTRACTION THAT BUILDS FROM COLOSSAL TO GIGANTIC!

(and still another from M-G-M! Turn!)

CRACK 'EM!

The new M-G-M challenger to follow "Meet Me In St. Louis" is "National Velvet," also in Technicolor! Another giant at the Box-Office, it set the biggest week's gross in Music Hall history during its long run there. And now in all its first dates across America it is doing truly CHAMPION business!

21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP
MGM

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Watch For Press Book! Use I
Red Cross Drive—March 15-2

Theatres in Full Curfew Compliance

(Continued from page 1)

streets to buy them. Gasoline also will be saved as taxi drivers find no business after midnight.

W M C officials in Washington watched closely the acceptance of the order throughout the country. Typically, the San Francisco Regional office reported outstanding cooperation of management, labor and communities in its area, while approximately 60 all-night theatres in Southern California were darkened by midnight, and "night-shift" houses in Detroit and other areas complied with the ban.

In New York, Washington and other Eastern cities, bad weather which reduced night club, theatre and other audiences was seen as a possible factor in the smoothness with which the new regime went into effect but communities which enjoyed comfortable weather appeared equally resigned to the curtailment of pleasure hours.

N. Y. City Council Aids Enforcement with Law

The New York City Council voted 14-to-2 yesterday at a special meeting for an amendment to force all theatres, bars, cabarets and dance halls to remain closed every night from midnight to 8 A.M., in line with the nationwide curfew order.

The vote of the Council came after Mayor F. H. LaGuardia's move to back the curfew order by local law.

More Demands Made By Laboratory Help

(Continued from page 1)

between Local 702 and the laboratories expire on March 10; negotiations on a new pact started here Feb. 15. A further meeting will be held today.

Other demands by the union, whose members have been hit in employment by the raw stock shortage, include demands for a guarantee of a five day-40 hour week of work. Replacements employed by the companies for Local 702 members who have gone into the Armed Forces would be discharged to make more work for regular union workers. Local 702 did not grant union membership to the replacements.

Severance pay demands are for one and one-half weeks for each year of service; two-week vacations are also sought. The union wants a one-year agreement and would continue its present maintenance of membership provisions in all contracts.

Schiffrin to Paris On Film Problems

(Continued from page 1)

lems pertaining to French films made during the German occupation and cleared for distribution for the U. S.; and how many U. S. films dubbed in French by distributors here will be admitted to France.

Schiffrin revealed that French weekly newsreel material is arriving here weekly and is distributed to the five newsreels, and, in turn, U. S. companies make domestic material available for incorporation in French reels, according to a temporary agreement, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 7.

U. S. to Seek Trial Date On New Decree Monday

(Continued from page 1)

cree, which may require several years to dispose of.

At the hearing last Dec. 20 on the Government's petition for a new decree Judge Goddard indicated that he would be unable to preside at a trial of the issues before next Fall and urged the Government and the decree companies to try to reach a compromise outside of court.

The move to have a date set for trial of the main Government decree petition, originally filed last Aug. 7 in Federal District court here, followed upon the five decree companies' reply last week to the Department's proposals for elimination of clearance. In the reply the companies contended that some of the Government's criticism of the decree's clearance provisions was unjustified and that "some of the relief required would work havoc in the industry."

Meanwhile, in Washington yesterday it was stated that the Department is fully prepared to present its case against clearance at the hearing before Judge Goddard next Monday, and has applied for postponement until next May of the start of trial of its anti-trust suit against the Griffith Circuit in Oklahoma City Federal Court, now scheduled for March 12, in order to concentrate upon the decree case here.

In addition to the theatre divorcement phase of the main decree action, for which the Government now seeks the setting of a trial date, separate licensing of films and decentralized film buying by circuits is proposed. Consenting companies would be prohibited from acquiring further theatre interests upon entry of the order and divestiture of theatres constituting a local "monopoly" would be required. Local arbitration boards would be authorized to eliminate clearance where circumstances warranted. The Government proposes that theatre divorcement would have to be completed within three years after entry of the order.

Selznick Will Press Action vs. Leigh

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 27.—Daniel T. O'Shea, executive director of David Selznick studios, said today that, despite the adverse decision of the British High Court in denying an interim injunction restraining Vivien Leigh from appearing in a stage play in London, Selznick's London counsel, Joynson-Hicks and Sir Walter Monckton, will proceed to ask for a permanent injunction.

O'Shea said that since Miss Leigh appeared in "Gone With the Wind" Selznick "has not had the opportunity to present" her in other films, because the producer had granted her request to appear in plays in England.

Citing the cooperation manifested by Selznick towards Miss Leigh when her husband, Lawrence Olivier, was in service, O'Shea said it was expected, now that he has been released, for her to return to America and make additional films for Selznick. He pointed out that she has not appeared in a Selznick film since Nov., 1940, and she had been granted leaves of absence only up to last April.

Lt. Hobart, Formerly Of Technicolor, Killed

Lieut. Morgan Linder Hobart, USNR, formerly manager of Technicolor's New York office, was killed in an air liner crash in Southern Virginia last Friday.

After beginning with Technicolor in Hollywood, Hobart was transferred here in 1938. He left to take a position with the War Production Board in 1941 and entered the Navy the following year.

Surviving are his father, Henry Morgan Hobart, former director-producer, and now executive assistant to the chairman of the board of Reeves Sound Laboratories here; his mother, Mrs. F. C. Wright, also of New York, and a sister, Mrs. Russell Gleason, daughter-in-law of actor James Gleason. Interment will be in Arlington National Cemetery.

FCC Starts Hearing Channel Arguments

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Oral argument on its recently announced frequency allocations for various types of television and radio service will open here tomorrow before the Federal Communications Commission, which has scheduled three days for the hearings but foresees the likelihood that they will run twice as long.

Provision has been made in the schedule for discussion of theatre television, but so far the Commission has received no applications for time from theatre interests.

Approximately 30 organizations have requested permission to submit arguments on various services covered by the proposed allocations, including the National Association of Broadcasters, Television Broadcasters Association, CBS, NBC, Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, RCA and Zenith Radio.

Lester Is Named WB Memphis Supervisor

R. P. Hagen, manager of Warner Bros.' film checking service, has left New York for a two-week tour of Midwest branches, including Memphis where he will install a new field supervisor, W. C. Lester, for Memphis and New Orleans territories. Lester succeeds B. T. Burnside, who joins Warners' sales staff.

H. E. Shepherd also has been added to the staff, as assistant field supervisor for Memphis-New Orleans.

Warners Drops 'Janie'

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 27.—As a consequence of Joyce Reynolds' decision to retire from the screen, Warners has abandoned its intention to produce a series of "Janie" pictures.

Ellison to Ideal

William M. Cotton's Ideal Movie Group has appointed Philip L. Ellison, top cameraman, to its Hollywood staff.

60 Exhibitors at Paramount Lunch

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 27.—Some 60 circuit executives and exhibitors, representing 90 per cent of the theatres of this territory, and from Pittsburgh, Washington and Baltimore, were guests at a luncheon in the Warwick Hotel here today, on the second day of a Paramount district sales meeting. Host at the luncheon was Earle W. Sweigert, Philadelphia district manager, who was toastmaster. Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, was also present. Officials of exhibitor organizations of this area were present.

Speakers included: J. Lawrence Schanberger, Keith's Theatre, Baltimore; Reagan, William Erbb, Eastern division manager; Hugh Owen, New York and Southern division manager; Oscar A. Morgan, general sales manager of short subjects; R. M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director, and Claude Lee, director of public relations.

Also attending were Paramount branch managers, salesmen and head bookers of Pittsburgh, Washington and Philadelphia branch offices, and William Brooker and James Levine, district advertising representatives.

Cinema Lodge Cites Harry Brandt Here

(Continued from page 1)

sented the scroll to Brandt after Jack H. Levin had cited Brandt's contributions on behalf of the industry's war effort. Albert A. Senft, Cinema president, presided.

Another highlight of the evening was the institution of the Cinema Auxiliary into the lodge and the installation of its officers, including Mrs. Ann G. Blackman, president; Mrs. Bessie Lefkowitz, first vice-president; Mrs. Bea Fellman, second vice-president; Mrs. Bess Rosenthal, treasurer; Mrs. Ethel Greenfield, recording secretary; Mrs. Betty Isaacs, financial secretary; Irma Flanders, monitress. Mrs. Joseph Berenson of the Woman's Grand Lodge of B'nai B'rith presented the Auxiliary charter to Mrs. Blackman. Membership roster of the Auxiliary already includes women in all film companies and in other groups allied with the industry with a membership drive now in full swing.

$5,000,000 Is Seen For March of Dimes

(Continued from page 1)

996, 42 per cent increase over 1944; South Carolina (Warren Irwin, chairman) $32,055, a 47 per cent jump over last year; Arizona (Harry Nace, chairman) $20,859, 92 per cent above 1944. The four states turned in over $90,000 more than they did in 1944.

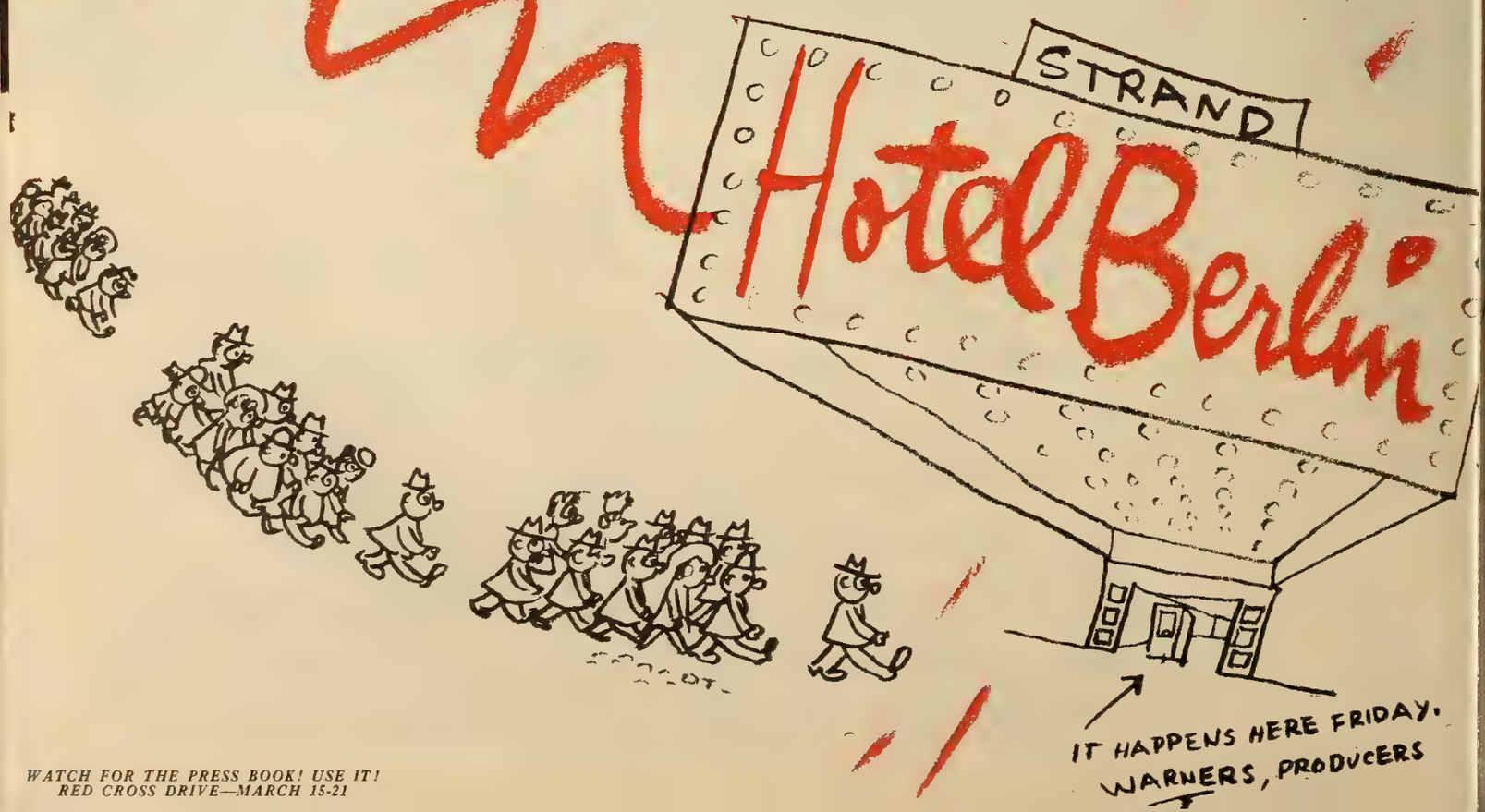
"At this rate, the national total will run far above $5,000,000," predicted C. C. Moskowitz, of the drive's executive committee.

It was said that "terrific gains" are being shown by small circuits.

Rex O'Malley Killed

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 27.—The body of Rex O'Malley, actor, killed when his auto went over a 50-foot cliff, was found in the surf near Santa Monica today. He leaves a wife and two children in North Hollywood.

Soon they'll be in



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RED CROSS DRIVE—MARCH 15-21

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 41 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1945 | TEN CENTS

10 Films Are Over Average In 14 Cities

'Meet Me in St. Louis' Is Outstanding This Month

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

"Meet Me in St. Louis," in outstanding initial weeks in Pittsburgh, Chicago and two theatres in Boston, and in strong second weeks in Buffalo and Toronto, a third week in Cincinnati and a big 10th in Philadelphia, leads for the third time in MOTION PICTURE DAILY's reports of estimated box office receipts from 14 key cities, excluding New York City, for the week ending Feb. 28. The reports indicate that it is still too early to judge the possible effect of the nationwide midnight curfew on theatres which have been giving post-midnight performances. Reports in

(*Continued on page* 8)

U. S. - Britain Talk Tax Ban

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Drafts of conventions between the United States and the United Kingdom, designed to eliminate double taxation, have been submitted to the governments of the two countries for final negotiation, it was learned today.

The conventions were worked out in meetings between tax experts of the English government and officials

(*Continued on page* 6)

13,008 Red Cross Pledges Received

With two weeks to go before the start of the motion picture industry's 1945 Red Cross War Fund Week, Leon J. Bamberger, national campaign director, announced yesterday that 13,008 pledges out of a possible total of 16,497, have already been received. This compares to last year's total of 13,434.

Pledges already received, Bamberger said, do not include Alaska, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the state of Kentucky.

David Loew Predicts New Major Company For Independents

After the war, when manpower is more abundant, there will be other distribution companies formed as the result of the demand by independent producers for outside distribution, according to David Loew, independent producer releasing through United Artists. Loew, in an interview with MOTION PICTURE DAILY here yesterday, pointed out that there are only three companies which nominally handle independent product: United Artists, Columbia and RKO.

If a new major distributing company should come into existence, and this development is foreseen by Loew, there will be a wholesale exodus of major studio directors, producers and stars to the new company in order

(*Continued on page* 6)

Red Cross Meet Reports Pouring in

Reports of enthusiastic exhibitor-distributor rallies this week on behalf of the industry's 1945 Red Cross War Fund Week, March 15-21, poured into national headquarters here yesterday from Dallas, Boston, Kansas City, New Orleans, Cleveland, St. Louis, Seattle and San Francisco.

Maximum collections were pledged

(*Continued on page* 6)

Ask Single Bills As Bar 'Lifesaver'

Cafe owners here, faced with heavy losses as the Government's midnight curfew cut their receipts 10 to 50 per cent below normal, were reported yesterday to have found that the biggest defection was in the theatre trade, which had time for only one quick drink after the show. Consequently, a movement was on foot to petition circuits and individual operators to eliminate double features, so that a quicker turnover of patrons would be available for early bar patronage.

WPB to Clear Deferments

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Plans are being completed by the War Production Board to act as the central agency for the certification of deferment requests for irreplaceable and indispensable men under 30 years of age who are engaged in war work and essential civilian activities.

An information bulletin outlining how employers are to submit lists of men who were reclassified as 2-A or 2-B January 1 will be issued before the end of the week. Requests for deferment of employes filed with local

(*Continued on page* 6)

FCC to Hear TBA Plea On Television Channels

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The Federal Communications Commission is expected to start to hear oral arguments on its proposed frequency allocations for television tomorrow after hearing frequency modulation representatives today.

Stressing that the prompt adoption by the Commission of a nationwide television frequency assignment plan is essential, the Television Broadcasters Association, one of the petitioners to be heard, points out in its prepared brief that channel sharing by television with other services may be possible in some sections of the country but must be closely controlled and subordinate to all television use. The TBA also wants the FCC to allocate the channel from 102 to 108 megacycles to television at once and desires, if possible, to have the FCC allocate a 14th channel to television for a temporary period of five years, immediately below 102 megacycles.

While reiterating its appreciation of the Commission's recognition of the importance of the television industry to the nation's economy, TBA asks for security in the use of the channels.

It is pointed out by TBA that if the FCC proceeds promptly with a nation-wide plan of assignment of television channels, rather than its present plan of having television share channels with other services, the 12 channels can serve more than 400 television stations; the first 140 market areas in the country; and that 98,000,000 people will have at least one satisfactory monochrome television station; approximately 90,000,000 people at least two such stations; three such stations could be available for 85,000,000 people and 75,000,000 could hear four competitive stations.

British Gov't Asks WPB For Raw Stock

'Way Ahead,' 20th Release, Sent to UK for Printing

The British Government Board of Trade, London, concerned over the possibility that British product may be frozen out of the American market because of the raw stock shortage, has asked the British Embassy in Washington to take the matter up with the War Production Board, it was learned here.

No special stock allocations have been made to foreign producers for release prints of pictures for American distribution. The WPB is understood to be cognizant of the problem and has stated that it is seeking a

(*Continued on page* 6)

WPB Limits New Houses

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The War Production Board is scanning all outstanding building authorizations and may shortly revoke all authorizations for projects in Group No. 1 labor areas on which construction has not started or has not progressed beyond the initial stages, it was learned here today.

All of the theatre projects author-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Trade 'Blacklists' Seen for Postwar

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—"Blacklists" of South American and other concerns with Axis connections and prohibitions against dealings by American nationals and companies with such establishments are expected to be maintained in force by the United

(*Continued on page* 6)

In This Issue

Review of "G. I. Honeymoon" and "Sudan" on page 3; *Motion Picture Daily's* booking chart, page 11.

Personal Mention

EDMUND C. GRAINGER, president of Shea Enterprises, yesterday spotted one of 'his boys', 'ANDY' McDONALD, now a Marine, with his buddies in a news picture, beneath the American flag they had just raised atop Iwo's volcano, Mount Suribachi. McDONALD was on the Shea auditing staff, here, of BILL BARRY.

•

WOLFE COHEN, Warner International Corp vice-president, arrived in Panama City yesterday. He is on a tour of Central and Latin America, and thereafter Australia and the Far East.

•

JACK SCHLAIFER, 20th-Fox Central division manager, and E. X. CALLAHAN, Eastern district manager, were in Albany this week, from New York, conferring with branch manager HARRY ALEXANDER.

•

WALTER TITUS, Republic's supervisor of branch operations is in Atlanta from New York, and will return here tomorrow.

•

HERB GORDON of the Forum Theatre, Philadelphia, and MRS. GORDON, have become the parents of a girl, DONNA.

•

PHIL WILLIAMS, March of Time advertising director, returned here yesterday from a Southern business trip.

•

HARRY GRAHAM, Universal's Southern division manager, is vacationing in Florida.

•

SPENCER PIERCE, 20th Century-Fox Southeastern publicity representative, Atlanta, is in Nashville on business.

•

HARRY BALLANCE, 20th Century-Fox Southern division manager, is visiting Southwest branches.

•

HERMAN SILVERMAN, Wometco Theatres, Miami, is visiting Atlanta's Film Row.

•

MAX WESTEBBE, RKO Radio exchange manager at Albany, has been visiting here.

•

H. M. RICHEY, M-G-M exhibitor relations head, will return today from a Southern trip.

•

MAURICE N. WOLFF, M-G-M New England district manager, arrived here yesterday from Boston.

•

ALEXANDER KORDA, who planned to leave for England this week, has delayed his departure due to a cold.

•

GORDON LIGHTSTONE, Paramount's general manager in Canada, is in New York from Toronto.

•

J. ROBERT RUBIN, M-G-M general counsel, has returned from the Coast.

•

PAUL WILSON, 20th-Fox Atlanta manager, is visiting in New Orleans.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Hollywood, Feb. 28

FOR a pivotal production figure like Darryl F. Zanuck to expound his approach on services to be rendered by the industry is important enough. When Spyros Skouras, president of a major company engaged in international operations, follows in the identical channel in the same place at the same time, the event could be even the more significant.

Thus, the possibilities of the future to which both gave public utterance at the "One World" dinner in New York, where the memory of Wendell L. Willkie was honored, have captured the interest of part of Hollywood.

There is no unanimity of opinion, but plenty of opinion.

■

Briefing Zanuck in the cause of fast reading, his pivot was this: "The motion picture industry can play a vital part in shaping our future destinies. A start has been made, but it is only a start. . . . Resources and the potentialities . . . have yet to be brought fully into play. . . .

Movies . . . have advanced to the point where they can be one of the decisive factors in educating the people of the world to peace and understanding."

Skouras said, in part: "You will continue to see films whose sole purpose is to entertain and divert. Also you will see many more films which not only entertain but, at the same time, enlighten and instruct. They will be pictures which are not divorced from reality. They will have both a point of view and a point to make. They will have something to say in a world struggling for better things. . . . I don't mean . . . we are ready to forget the primary purpose of entertainment. That is the mainspring which makes all else possible."

■

The dissident opinion is well established, of course. It acknowledges no other function for this induustry beyond its obligation to make motion pictures which provide the escapisms which push the realisms aside and thereby entertain. This, correctly, is the industry's primary purpose, and it is an essential purpose by many approaches. To endeavor to reduce it to complete rubble is ridiculous and uneconomic.

Yet in these decisive and incisive times, and in the difficult times ahead, the opposite approach, which we have shared for many years, has its merits as well.

■

Not alone is it possible, but it is also feasible within the framework of that which comprises entertainment, to have something to say. A point of view and a point to make, which are Skouras's words, we are convinced, will play their part in the normal course of production because the stringencies of the times will find—and must find—reflection on the screen. Dream worlds and ivory towers are not very marketable these days.

To assume, in turn, this means Betty Grable will not dance or Carmen Miranda will not sing or Roy Rogers will not roam the range would be to assume a state of affairs that will not be. Nor should it be. As long as audiences pay, they'll get the merchandise on order.

■

Moreover, attractions with a point to register need not be stuffy, ponderous or weighty. Additionally, they need not fly in the face of public acceptance. A serious objective has its best chance of success if the producer is astute enough to develop it dramatically and, therefore, entertainingly. If he does not and embarks on straight argument or preachment, his chances of coming through will be nil. Such a fate will be deserved because his effort will be spurious. And it will be spurious since what he offers as entertainment, is not.

If the reasoning is valid and in the general interest, the films of purpose which Zanuck and Skouras declare they see on their inevitable way can add to the industry's stature and hasten its maturity and responsibility.

Like man's estate, an industry must reach its majority, too.

■ ■

Irving Cummings, taking note of his 36th year in the industry, is busy directing "The Dolly Sisters." How does it look to him after three decades, plus? Like this: "There's nothing wrong, except, perhaps, we're a bit spoiled. We are apt to forget those terrific early struggles to gain recognition, to survive financially and to be accepted as uplifting entertainment. Hollywood has nothing to fear except itself. Therefore, as long as nobody rocks the boat too hard, the industry should continue to scale unprecedented heights."

Coming Events

Today—Start of Producers Releasing Corp. fifth anniversary celebration, to run five weeks.

Today—Independent Theatre Owners Association meeting with Spyros Skouras, Hotel Astor, New York.

Mar. 2—War Activities Committee meeting with Theodore R. Gamble on Seventh War Loan plans.

Mar. 5—Association of Motion Picture Producers annual directors' meeting and election of officers.

Mar. 6—Allied Theatres of Illinois 15th annual convention, Blackstone Hotel, Chicago.

Mar. 8-9—Paramount regional sales meeting, Atlanta.

Mar. 13-15—Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners' annual meeting of trustees, Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles.

Mar. 14—Universal's annual stockholders' meeting, Wilmington.

Mar. 15—Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' annual awards, Hollywood.

Mar. 15-21—Industry Red Cross 'War Fund' week.

Mar. 17—RKO 'Depinet Drive' meetings in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit, and Indianapolis.

Mar. 29—Loew's annual stockholders' meeting, New York.

A. J. Silverstein Joins U. S. Treasury Here

J. Edward Shrugue, director of the motion picture and special events section of the War Finance Division, Treasury Department, announces the addition to his staff, here, of Adolph J. Silverstein.

Silverstein is a former member of the Hal Horne publicity staff of 20th Century Fox, and was recently honorably discharged from the Army. He will serve as assistant to Max Youngstein in publicizing the activities and promotions of the department in connection with forthcoming War Loan Drives.

Reagan Names Roper Owens' Assistant

Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, yesterday announced the promotion of Jack Roper, statistician in the distribution department, to the post of assistant to Hugh Owen, New York and Southern division manager.

A native of London, Roper came to this country following World War service in the British army, and shortly thereafter joined Paramount. He has been with the company 24 years.

20th Promotes Wingart

Earl Wingart has been made assistant to Jules Fields, 20th Century Fox's publicity manager. Wingart was formerly in charge of the service division of the home office exploitation department.

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Zanuck, Schenck, Hines and Others In Stock Tradings

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 28.—Transactions involving over 400,000 shares of film stocks were disclosed today by the Securities and Exchange Commission in its January summary of activities of officers and directors of registered corporations in the securities of their own companies.

The bulk of the volume was accounted for by the sale by Rockefeller Center of its 359,800-share common stock interest in Radio-Keith-Orpheum, as previously reported.

Largest individual transaction reported by the SEC was the sale of 42,000 shares of 20th Century-Fox common stock by Darryl F. Zanuck, which left him with 130 shares at the close of the month, also previously reported.

Transactions in the stocks of other companies reported by the SEC included the following:

General Precision Equipment: Purchase of 9,000 shares of capital stock by Earle G. Hines, increasing his interest to 9,500 shares, and the purchase of 100 shares by Robert T. Rineer, representing his entire holdings at the time of the report.

Loew's, Inc.

Loew's, Inc.: Sale of 9,000 shares of common by Nicholas M. Schenck, reducing his holdings to 1,913 shares; and purchase of 100 shares by Eugene W. Leake, his entire interest.

Monogram Pictures: Purchase of 1,533 shares of common and sale of 1,000 shares by Arthur C. Bromberg, Atlanta, through Monogram Southern Exchanges, Inc., giving him 19,072 shares so held; purchase of 433 shares of common by George D. Burrows, Los Angeles, increasing his holdings to 833 shares; purchase of 1,867 shares of common by Herman Rifkin, Boston, through Monogram Pictures, Inc., and transfer of 6,667 shares from the corporation to his own name, giving him 16,685 shares held direct and 12,825 shares through the company; acquisition, by gift, of 262 shares of common and purchase of 100 shares by Norton V. Ritchey, increasing his interest to 5,029 shares; purchase of 633 shares of common by Charles W. Trampe, Milwaukee, through Monogram Midwest Film Co., giving that account 3,333 shares; purchase of 633 shares of common by Sam Wolf, Los Angeles, who purchased 1,000 shares, making his holdings 3,333 shares; purchase of 145 shares of preferred by W. Ray Johnston, representing his entire holdings.

Paramount

Paramount Pictures: Purchase of 100 shares of common by Stephen Callaghan, New York, giving him a total of 300 shares.

Universal Pictures: Sale of 800 shares of common by Preston Davie, director, reducing his interest to 3,689 shares; sale of 400 shares by Cliff Work, who also bought 4,600 shares, leaving him with 10,000 shares; also the purchase by Work of 3,000 common warrants, giving him a total of 6,000; disposition, by gift, of 300 warrants by Charles D. Prutzman, leaving him with 15,000.

The SEC also disclosed that when Carlton B. Wikoff, New York, became a Columbia Pictures officer he held none of that company's securities, and when Donald K. Woodard, Boston, became a 20th Century-Fox officer he held 10 shares of the company's common stock.

Reviews

"Sudan"

(Universal)

Hollywood, Feb. 28

THIS sixth in Universal's succession of Maria Montez-Jon Hall Technicolor adventures is the best since "Arabian Nights" started the studio upon this profitable vein of product. It surpasses the other five in subject matter, plausibility and performance, and has the additional box-office value which stems from the fact that Turhan Bey, now riding the crest of his popularity, gets the girl this time instead of running second. It promises to expand and fortify the vogue which Universal has established for these pictures.

Egypt is the scene of Edmund L. Hartman's script and there is no magic or mystery about the adventuring which takes place. Miss Montez is a princess who becomes queen when her father is killed and sets out to track down the desert marauder who is his murderer. She is captured, sold into slavery, escapes, meets and falls in love with the man she has sworn to kill, but learns of his innocence in time to balance things off satisfactorily after an extraordinarily thrilling mountainside battle in which the right people defeat the wrong people by sending an avalanche down upon them. It is straight adventure stuff, similar in outline to the best western action films but prettier and with more surprises.

The production by Paul Malvern is tip-top, and direction by John Rawlins makes the most of it. Andy Devine, George Zucco and Robert Warwick head a large, proficient supporting cast.

Running time, 76 minutes. General classification. Release March 2.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

"G.I. Honeymoon"

(Monogram)

Hollywood, Feb. 28

FAR better on points than most merchandise in its category, this comedy, based on the Army's disregard for the marital prerogatives of its soldiers, takes a pair of eager newlyweds through 70 minutes of frustration that a Hollywood preview audience found plentifully amusing. Gale Storm and Peter Cookson are the newlyweds, convincing in their assignments, and Arline Judge, Frank Jenks and Jerome Cowan head a supporting cast that does right by a script which contains many a laugh line—some of them open to dual interpretation—and no deadwood.

Richard Weil's screenplay opens with a fast wedding, the groom being whisked away by Army assignment and the bride catching the same train. Assignments keep him from being alone with her aboard train more than a minute or two, and when they arrive in the Nevada town where he is stationed the same thing, for a variety of reasons, happens regularly. The peak situation finds her entertaining his officers' friends in an apartment stuffed with hidden soldiers who arrived earlier under the impression that the place is a gambling joint. The manner in which the film uses uniformed servicemen for comedy purposes suggests that the War Department has relaxed its rules about such matters considerably. Lindsley Parsons produced the picture, under executive producer Trem Carr, and Phil Karlstein directed, with a keen sense of timing.

Running time, 70 minutes. General classification. Release date, March 9.

W. R. W.

Taylor Named Head Of DuMont Sales

Leonard F. Cramer, vice-president of DuMont Laboratories, Inc., announces the appointment of Herbert E. Taylor, Jr., to the post of director of transmitter equipment sales. Taylor was formerly assistant director of sales.

Taylor has been with DuMont for several years, in the posts of priority supervisor, manager of the war service department and assistant director of cyclograph sales. He has also served as sound and video technician in television crews at DuMont television station WABD.

Five-City Rogers Tour

Republic's Roy Rogers is slated to make personal appearances in four cities in the U. S. and one in Canada during April and May, opening at the Uline Arena, Washington, for a week beginning April 12, then at the Arena, Cleveland, April 21-28; Duquesne Gardens, Pittsburgh, April 30-May 5; Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto, May 7-12; and the Auditorium, Providence, May 15-20.

Coast Writers Pick Knox and Bergman

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 28.—The Hollywood Foreign Correspondents Association, basing balloting on results of individual canvasses conducted by its members in periodicals they service in 26 countries, has voted the following annual awards: Best picture, "Going My Way"; male star, Alexander Knox, for "Wilson"; feminine star, Ingrid Bergman, for "Gaslight"; best male support, Barry Fitzgerald, for "Going My Way"; best feminine support, Agnes Moorehead, for "Mrs. Parkington"; best director, Leo McCarey, for "Going My Way."

An awards ceremony will be held at some unfixed date subsequent to the annual Academy Awards function on March 15.

Services for Mrs. Phifer

Funeral services were held yesterday for Mrs. Eloise Phifer, wife of Capt. Volney Phifer, M-G-M exploitation representative, at Millington, N. J. Mrs. Phifer died Monday at Plainfield Hospital, a few days after giving birth to an eight and a half pound daughter. A number of M-G-M home office executives attended the services at her home in Millington. Also surviving is a son, Ellis.

Present New N. Y. Code Bill

ALBANY, Feb. 28.—The New York State Labor Department asked the Legislature yesterday for broader supervisory powers over places of public assembly, including theatres in all parts of the state with the possible exception of New York City, to reduce the possibility of disastrous fires such as those at the Cocoanut Grove in Boston and the circus in Hartford.

The Department's request was included in a bill introduced by Senator William Condon of Westchester and Assemblyman Frederick A. Washburn of Columbia, which would enlarge the definition of a place of public assembly, now applying in a loose way only to amusement and recreation halls. The bill would include dining rooms, dance halls, places of religious observance and schools.

The measure also proposed to eliminate some of the qualifying language of the original law, enacted in the Twenties, and thus strengthen the effectiveness of Department regulation. It is proposed under the bill that enforcement of the law be concentrated in the Industrial Commission and that all cities of 100,000 population or more have an agency charged with the enforcement of building laws.

Fleming to Supervise Theatre Installations

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—Appointment of Ira L. Fleming to the newly created post of chief field engineer of DeVry Corp., inventors and developers of motion picture sound equipment, is announced by William C. DeVry, president.

For the past five years Fleming has been in charge of sound engineering in DeVry's amplifier and speaker division. In his new position he will work with Government agencies in the installation and maintenance of sound equipment and panoramic gunnery trainers for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. His postwar activities will cover the installation, operation and maintenance of theatre projection equipment and the development of an international field engineering service department for DeVry.

Theatre Damaged by Fire

GALLASTIN, Tenn., Feb. 28.—The Palace Theatre was almost completely destroyed by fire in the projection room. Projection equipment and all film was destroyed. Manager J. G. Bradley states that reopening of the theatre is indefinite.

WB, Army in Tieup

With cooperation of the Army Parachute School at Fort Benning, Ga., Warner Bros.' educational bureau has issued a 16-page brochure on "Objective, Burma" under the heading of "The Story of the Paratroopers."

Jarrett Dies from Fight

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 28.—Robert L. Jarrett, 77, of the Cozy Theatre died following a fight at the theatre when he awakened two men when the show was over and asked them to leave. The assailants are being sought.

FRED'S BAGGE

JACK SKIRBALL PULLED A FAST ONE ON ME—HE GAVE ME A PICTURE WITH A PLOT—AND LOOK WHAT THE CRITICS SAY ABOUT IT!

THIS'LL KILL BENNY!

"Fred Allen rings the bell with clatter and clang! A happy-go-lucky sort of picture tailored perfectly to the star's measure! Easily Allen's best screen performance! It will be a thumping hit everywhere!"
—HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY, FOLKS—READ THESE AND REAR

"The laughingest 90 minutes experienced this year! The picture's sure-fire for everywhere films are seen or radio is heard!"
—M. P. HERALD

"Top notch comedy entertainment. Merry madcap farce combining mystery and romance to keep action rolling at a fast and hilarious clip! Should register big!"
—M. P. DAILY

"The picture will prove a delight. Just about as workmanlike a production of screwball comedy as has yet come to the screen. Should score as a chuckling good diversion for audiences!"
—SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIEW

"Duplicates the steady flow of chuckles and typical Fred Allen wit that distinguish his radio shows. For boxoffice value there is a nifty group of guest stars. The picture doesn't waver from its chore of socking over the chuckles!"
—DAILY VARIETY

"This is packed with laughs and amusing situations, and should show high returns at the boxoffice. This can be exploited to the hilt!"
—THE EXHIBITOR

"Fred Allen introduces a number of new gags and fast cracks into a story that moves along at a merry clip. It ought to be easy to roll up a profit in any situation!"
—BOXOFFICE

THEY DID MENTION YOU BENNY!

"If it's laughs you're looking for, go to see 'It's In The Bag'. All the hams in the business are in it. The Jack Benny scene will kill you!"
—HEDDA HOPPER

HE BEST IN BOXOFFICE RAVES!

OH, LOUELLA!

"This week's medal goes to U. A.'s 'It's In The Bag.' The fun is so fast and furious the laughs never stop. There are more comics tossed in than there are cops in a Keystone comedy. Our compliments to Jack Skirball, and our medal for the best performance goes to that marvelous comedian Fred Allen!"

— LOUELLA PARSONS

MR. BENNY HAVE YOU READ THIS ONE?

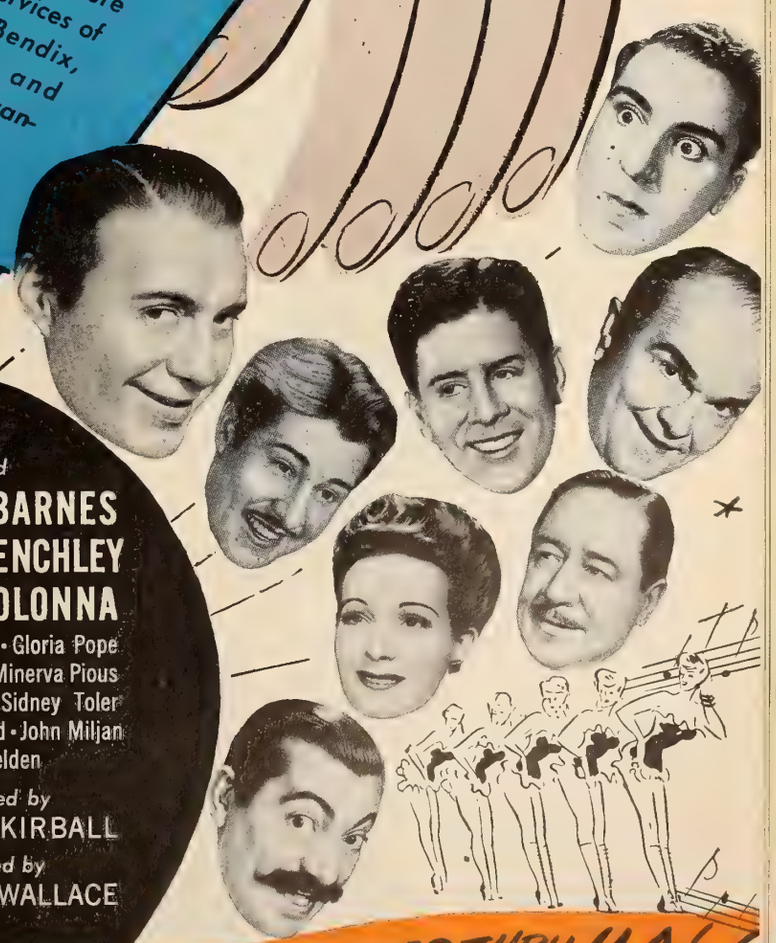
"This Jack Skirball production gives the comedian free reign to indulge his humor resulting in fun that should win a strong popular response! An out and out laugh squeezer. To clinch the boxoffice success of the picture Skirball has enlisted the services of such players as Benny, Bendix, Ameche, Vallee, Colonna and Benchley who appear to fine advantage as stooges to Allen!"

— FILM DAILY

HO, HUM!

"Best picture of the week is 'It's In The Bag', a three bell picture starring Fred Allen. It's a howl from start to finish with Allen's comedy getting full play. Don't miss it!"

— JIMMY FIDLER



JACK H. SKIRBALL
presents

FRED ALLEN *in*

with Guest Stars

JACK BENNY
DON AMECHE
WILLIAM BENDIX
VICTOR MOORE
RUDY VALLEE

★ IT'S IN THE BAG ★

and

BINNIE BARNES
ROBERT BENCHLEY
JERRY COLONNA

John Carradine • Gloria Pope
William Terry • Minerva Pious
Dickie Tyler • Sidney Toler
George Cleveland • John Miljan
Ben Welden

Produced by
JACK H. SKIRBALL

Directed by
RICHARD WALLACE

RIOT-AND ALL-RELEASED THRU U.A.!

David Loew Predicts New Major Company For Independents

(Continued from page 1)

that they may share in distribution as well as in production, he believes.

Major companies such as Paramount and Warners are already anticipating the day when outside distribution may become more important and, consequently, have attempted to protect themselves by setting a number of outside producing deals, Loew said.

The demand by exhibitors after the war will be for more product, and production will have to be increased to meet this demand, Loew declared. As personnel departs from major studios, the production gap will be filled by outside production and distribution, he said.

Loew, who will return to the Coast March 16 after several months here, said that "Hold Autumn in Your Hand" will be released for him by UA in April or May, having been held up by a title change. He revealed that Audience Research is conducting a survey to determine whether its present title should be changed.

Two Per Year

Loew said that he expects to produce two pictures per year and said he has a deal on with Al Lewin, director and writer. A new company is being formed by himself and Lewin, with distribution not set as yet, but possibly through UA which has assured him that it will distribute his product, Loew said. The other picture may be made in conjunction with Jean Renoir and Dudley Nichols and depends upon whether they can secure the rights to a novel, from which a French film version has been made. This film, if made, will go into production in August at General Service Studios. The other, to be made with Lewin, will not start shooting before December or next January, Loew said.

Loew revealed that the firm of Producing Artists, in which Arthur Lyons was interested and which had a three-year distribution contract with UA, will be permitted to lapse. Budd Rogers has been appointed as his Eastern representative, Loew said.

U. S.-Britain Talk Ban on Dual Taxes

(Continued from page 1)

of the Internal Revenue Bureau and Treasury.

The most important agreement from the standpoint of the industry is the elimination of double taxation on income, under which English royalties of American copyright owners are expected to be protected.

A similar agreement with France was ratified by the Senate some weeks ago.

Sparks on 'U' Board, Coordinates Writers

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 28. — Universal today added Robert S. Sparks to its newly created studio advisory board as coordinator of all writing activities. Just back after two and a half years in the Army, Sparks was formerly with Paramount, RKO and Columbia.

Red Cross Meet Reports Pouring in

(Continued from page 1)

by 900 Texas theatres; 520 in New England, where additional pledges may bring the total up to 715; 360 in Missouri, compared with 309 last year and 408 out of a possible 536 in the New Orleans area.

Representing the national distributors' committee, Tom Connors and R. J. O'Donnell spoke in Dallas, Ben Kalmenson and Major L. E. Thompson at Boston, Henderson M. Richey at New Orleans, national drive chairman N. Peter Rathvon, William Scully and Arthur Mayer at Cleveland, and Edward Schnitzer at St. Louis. Basil O'Connor, chairman of the American Red Cross, made appearances in St. Louis and Kansas City.

Those In Charge

Don Douglas and Cecil House, local exhibitor and distributor chairman, respectively, were in charge of the Dallas gathering; Nate Yamins and Bill Horan, at Boston; William Truog and Elmer C. Rhoden, Kansas City; E. V. Richards and Lucas O'Connor, New Orleans; Meyer Fine and Joe Krenitz, Cleveland; Martin Smith and Bernie McCarthy, St. Louis; Maury Saffle and L. O. Lukan, Seattle; and B. V. Sturdivant, San Francisco.

Williams Takes Over SCTOA in L. A. Today

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 28.—Paul Williams, former assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, who resigned from the Department of Justice to succeed the late Albert J. Law as general counsel of the Southern California Theatre Owners Association, is due to assume his new post today. Williams is expected to work toward adoption of Law's contemplated conciliation designed to simplify the provisions of arbitration under the industry Consent Decree. Law was negotiating to this end with distributor heads when he died of a heart attack Jan. 2 in New York. Williams represented the Government in early anti-trust suit proceedings.

Anti-Bias Bill in Illinois Senate

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—A bill introduced in the State senate in Springfield by Senator Mills prohibits discrimination in employment because of race, religion, color, national origin or ancestry.

The bill establishes a board for fair employment practice consisting of five members to be appointed by the Governor to administer the act.

Trade 'Blacklists' Seen for Postwar

(Continued from page 1)

States and British Governments for a long period after the war.

Carried on the proscribed list are a number of companies which were interested in motion pictures and equipment. Many of the blacklisted individuals and concerns were discovered to have contracts with their Axis governments through which information of military value was transmitted.

WPB to Clear Deferments

(Continued from page 1)

draft boards will not generally be granted unless supported by a certification from one of the several agencies authorized under the procedure developed last week by the War Manpower Commission and Selective Service.

Production of technical and vocational films for the military and war production industries, film processing, development of sensitized film and newsreels are carried in the WMC list as essential but not critical. It has not been disclosed whether any film operations will be considered as essential in the list which is being prepared by the OCR.

Academy Will Screen Scenes at Ceremony

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 28.—The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will screen scenes from all pictures represented in nominations for the annual award March 15 at the Chinese Theatre, with an off-screen commentator naming the candidates in each division as the footage flashes on the screen. At the close of each division, the lights will go up and the presentation of awards will follow.

Representatives of all crafts and guilds are now working with program director Mark Sandrich on the preparation of special films for film-editing nominations and others not readily represented by footage from pictures on which nominations are based. Stage entertainment, used last year, will be dispensed with in favor of a strictly screen type ceremony.

RWLB Sessions Near End in RKO Dispute

A further hearing before the Regional War Labor Board here in the contract dispute between RKO and Motion Picture Theatre Operating Managers and Assistant Managers Guild will be held next Tuesday. The Guild represents managers and assistant managers in the 40 RKO theatres in the Metropolitan New York area.

Progress was made at a hearing before the RWLB last Tuesday and it is possible that the hearings will be concluded with next Tuesday's meeting. The RWLB will then take the case under advisement with both the company and the Guild expected to be given an opportunity to file briefs.

Cowen Heads Fabian Publicity in Albany

Larry Cowen, recently appointed manager of Proctor's Troy, has been named publicity director of Fabian Theatres in the Albany area in addition. Cowen, prior to his four years' service as a Lt. Commander in the Navy, handled publicity for RKO Theatres in New York and Century Circuit, New York.

Resigns RCA Post

T. F. Joyce, general manager of the radio, phonograph and television department of the Radio Corporation of America, has announced his resignation from the company after 23 years of service.

British Ask WPB for Raw Stock Quota

(Continued from page 1)

solution and has no intention of discriminating against foreign producers.

United Artists, for one, which is scheduled to release a number of J. Arthur Rank films here, having already released "Mr. Emmanuel," as the first, and 20th Century-Fox, which will also release some British films are understood to have stated that since they have only sufficient stock for domestic releases, they would be hard put to undertake distribution of foreign films with their limited stock supply.

Two Cities' "The Way Ahead," which 20th-Fox will release, has been sent back to England for printing, it is understood, and if a solution is not forthcoming from the WPB, possibility exists that the British industry may attempt to secure its raw stock for pictures for the American market from stock which American distributors are using for releases in the United Kingdom, possibly creating a difficult situation there for American companies.

Stanley Adams, head of WPB's Consumers Durable Goods division, in Washington, has said, however, that the agency has "no intention of discriminating against foreign producers."

Set Decorators May Appeal to Roosevelt

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 28.—Set Decorators Local 1421, which yesterday stood ready to strike unless the producers acted on their plea for recognition ordered by the War Labor Board, tonight deferred action pending receipt of a reply from the WLB to a wire opposing the telegraphed request of the producers that WLB set aside arbitrator Thomas Tongue's decision awarding the union jurisdiction.

Decorators' business manager Ed Mussa said, "We are confident the WLB will support the arbitrator's decision. If not, we are prepared to appeal to President Roosevelt for an order instructing the WLB to do so."

Cinema Lodge to Be Cited by Treasury

Cinema Lodge is among the 60 B'nai B'rith lodges and auxiliaries in the Metropolitan Council of B'nai B'rith which will receive citations from the War Finance Committee of the U. S. Treasury Department here tonight for its participation in the recent Sixth War Loan.

The B'nai B'rith War Service Committee of the Council accounted for the sale of $29,077,540 in bonds in the drive to lead all the special groups section of the WFC for New York, according to S. Arthur Glixon and Helen Colin, co-chairmen of the B'nai B'rith committee.

Rites for Dr. Smith

Services for Dr. Joseph Smith, father of Edward Smith, MOTION PICTURE DAILY staff member, were held in New York yesterday morning. Dr. Smith is also survived by his sister, Sophia. He was a member of the New York Psychoanalytic Society and the Doctors Club of Brooklyn, and was a retired brigadier general of the U. S. Army.

BOXOFFICE MAGAZINE PRINTS THIS BOXOFFICE NEWS!

Leo Planning to Make Cartoon Sequel For Popular "Red Hot Riding Hood"

NEW YORK—Exhibitors who booked and rebooked Metro's most popular cartoon to date, "Red Hot Riding Hood," will be glad to learn that a sequel is soon to be released.

The original had the greatest number of bookings of any M-G-M short subject in its 18-year history—over 15,000. It is expected that it will garner 3,000 more bookings before its popularity wanes.

In addition to setting a new record for bookings, this cartoon, produced under the direction of Fred Quimby and released in May 1943, created a new cartoon character "Red."

Since the release of "Red Hot Riding Hood" the M-G-M studios have been swamped with requests.

Next appearance of "Red" and the wolf will be in Metro's forthcoming Technicolor cartoon, "The Shooting of Dan McGoo," in which the former will be seen as "The Lady Known as Lou." While an off-stage voice recites the famous Robert W. Service poem, a travesty in which "Red" figures is enacted.

The voice of Imogene Lynn, featured soloist with Artie Shaw's new orchestra is heard singing "Put Your Arms Around Me Honey."

The studio plans to present "Red" in modernized versions of story book characters. In "Swingshift Cindy" she will be a modern Cinderella, who is a rug-cutter, while in "Uncle Tom's Cabana" she will play Little Eva, a swingster from the bayous.

"Get ready boys for THE SHOOTING OF DAN McGOO!"

M-G-M's "THE SHOOTING OF DAN McGOO," the Technicolor sequel to "Red Hot Riding Hood" started off Washington's Birthday with 18 terrific test bookings! Get it now while it's Red Hot!

MGM

Red Cross Drive—March 15-21! Watch For Press Book! Use It!

WPB Limits Houses, May Cut Permits

(Continued from page 1)

ized by the recreation section of the Office of Civilian Requirements are in Group 1 areas. About 75 authorizations are understood to be outstanding.

The Board's concern over the construction situation is due to the difficult manpower problem which prevails in the Group 1 areas. Many of the projects for which authorizations are outstanding have been held up by the inability to secure labor, although there have also been delays due to slow deliveries of material, particularly steel structural shapes, orders for which have been laid aside by the mills under the pressure of military requirements.

The difficult labor situation has been recognized by the OCR recreation section in the handling of building applications over a period of many months, and authorizations have been issued only for projects most urgently needed. Since the military setback experienced in Europe in December, practically no new theatres have been authorized, although a few grants have been made for the reconstruction of burned-out houses and for conversions for theatre use where only small amounts of material and labor were required.

In view of the manpower problem, it is believed that no further construction beyond that for which a most urgent need can be shown will be authorized until the end of the war in Europe.

Al Rosen Associated With B'way Producer

Al Rosen, former manager of Loew's State, here, and more recently of Michael Todd's office, has become associated with James Elliott, who will produce the Broadway comedy, "Too Hot for Maneuvers."

Richard Arlen, Republic player, has been signed for a leading role, and Helen Parrish, Universal starlet, is also slated for a part in the show, which is expected to open on Broadway about April 15, after a Boston tryout. Columbia is reported to have manifested interest in film rights.

Legion Classifies Seven More Films

The Legion of Decency has classified seven more pictures as follows: Class A-1, RKO's "The Enchanted Cottage" and Columbia's "Leave It to Blondie"; Class A-II, RKO's "Betrayal from the East" and 20th Century-Fox's "Circumstantial Evidence"; Class B, "I Was Faithful" (Cynara), Samuel Goldwyn film which Film Classics is reissuing, Republic's "The Phantom Speaks," and Columbia's "Tonight and Every Night."

Singer to Coast Confab

Sumer Singer, account executive for the Buchanan Agency, here, will leave for Hollywood tomorrow to confer with U. A. Coast producers on advertising programs for new product. During his several weeks' stay in Hollywood, Singer will confer with Benedict Bogeaus, Edward Small, Constance Bennett, Samuel Goldwyn and executives of International Pictures.

10 Films Are Above House Averages in 14 Cities

(Continued from page 1)

many instances include Washington's Birthday business, with mild weather prevailing in most sections of the country

Nine other films are above house averages in the 14 key cities. The cities covered are: Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Denver, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, St. Louis, Toronto, Los Angeles, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Cleveland. The leading films are: "The Three Caballeros," "I'll Be Seeing You," "A Song to Remember," "Music for Millions," "Here Come the Waves," "To Have and Have Not," "Objective Burma," "The Fighting Lady" and "Hangover Square." In extended holdovers, "Keys of the Kingdom" and "Tonight and Every Night" are also drawing heavy receipts.

'St. Louis' Outstanding

"Meet Me in St. Louis," which is easily the outstanding grosser nationally for the month of February, was a strong $49,000 better than house averages in reports from eight theatres in seven of the key cities covered. It was a record breaker in Pittsburgh with $16,300 above; a leader in Boston, scoring $13,700 above in two theatres, and was very strong in an initial week in Chicago with $16,500 above. It continued strong in all holdover situations.

"The Three Caballeros," in initial weeks in Buffalo, Boston, Baltimore and Cincinnati brought outstanding business. It was $6,000 above in Boston; $7,800 above on a dual in Buffalo; more than twice as much as average in Cincinnati, and good in Baltimore combined with a stage show.

"I'll Be Seeing You" went $9,200 above in a big initial week in Philadelphia, continued strong in a second week in Cincinnati, and held up splendidly in a third week in Cleveland. "A Song to Remember" brought a record-breaking $64,000 in two theatres in Los Angeles, where the house averages are a total of $35,300, and continued to draw well in a third week in Buffalo.

"Music for Millions" was a big $17,100 above in reports from four theatres in Baltimore, St. Louis, Indianapolis and Cleveland, being a leader in all four cities. "Here Come the Waves" was a sturdy $18,700 above in reports from six theatres in five cities with holdovers predominating. It was big in third weeks in two Los Angeles theatres and in Kansas City, and in a second week in Philadelphia. It was the leader in Buffalo on an initial week with moderate business being done in Denver.

"Objective Burma" was $26,900 above in reports from nine theatres in Denver, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati and Los Angeles. It was a big $12,500 above in Philadelphia on an initial week almost $9,000 above in initial weeks in two theatres in Denver. It was also strong in first weeks in Boston, Baltimore and Cincinnati, and continued to hold up well in a third week in Chicago and in second weeks in three Los Angeles theatres.

'To Have' Strong

"To Have and Have Not" was almost $10,000 above in extended holdover runs in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Cincinnati and St. Louis and was a leader in an initial week in Boston.

"The Fighting Lady" drew big business in an initial week in Philadelphia, playing alone as it is in New York; was profitable in Toronto, Indianapolis and Cleveland, teamed with "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier." It was further supported by a stage show in an initial week in Cleveland.

"Hangover Square" brought $5,200 above in reports from five theatres in three cities with a good business being recorded in a first week in Baltimore, as a dual on a moveover in Denver, and in three theatres in Kansas City in an initial week. "The Keys of the Kingdom" scored impressively in a first week in two theatres in Boston and continued to hold up well in Pittsburgh in a fourth week, in a fifth week in Chicago and in a second week in Toronto. It was a slow starter in Cleveland.

"Tonight and Every Night" brought $45,750 in holdover dates in four Los Angeles theatres and in one house in Denver. "Guest in the House" drew good business in Chicago and Philadelphia in initial weeks, being $6,200 above in Philadelphia, and $4,600 above in Chicago.

"For Whom the Bell Tolls," in first weeks at popular prices in Baltimore and St. Louis, proved to be a sturdy grosser with almost $5,400 above. "Hollywood Canteen" was big in a first week in Kansas City, and "Here Come the Co-Eds" was strong in initial weeks in Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, with $4,100 above being recorded.

Extend War Damage Policies 12 Months

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The War Damage Corp. announced tonight that all war damage policies will be extended automatically for a period of 12 months from the date of expiration without the payment of additional premium or other charge. A similar extension was granted last year because no claims had been incurred from enemy damage to property within the United States.

'Powder' Opens March 10

"Keep Your Powder Dry," M-G-M picture about the Wacs, has been set to open at the Criterion Theatre, here, on Saturday, March 10.

Five More M-G-M Exploiteers Here

Five more M-G-M field promotion men will arrive here Monday to spend a week at the home office visiting department executives. Arriving will be Floyd Fitzsimmons, Albany; Ed Gallner, Philadelphia; Jack Gilmore, Buffalo; Burt McKenzie, Boston; and Warren Slee, Chicago.

Smith to Tell Plans

Fred Smith, Blue Network advertising-publicity director, recently elected a vice-president, will discuss the company's advertising and promotion plans with representatives of the press at a luncheon at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, here, today.

Genesee's Clearance Reduction Sustained

Award of the Buffalo tribunal arbitrator in reducing clearance of the Bailey Theatre, Buffalo, operated by Dipson Theatres, over the Genesee, Buffalo, operated by Basil Bros., to seven days from 14 has been affirmed by the arbitration appeal board, the American Arbitration Association reports here.

Complainant, in original demand for arbitration, said that the 14 days clearance granted the Bailey by Paramount, Loew's, RKO, Warners and 20th Century-Fox was unreasonable and that the Genesee be permitted to exhibit its films "immediately after said films have been exhibited at the Bailey." Dipson Theatres, intervenor, appealed the award asking that the original clearance be restored.

At the same time, the AAA reported that Frank Higgins, operating the Lake City Theatre, Lake City, Wash., has withdrawn his some-run complaint filed in the Seattle tribunal against 20th Century-Fox, Warners and Loew's.

Temple Theatre Asks Clearance Abolition

Affiliated Theatres, operating the Temple, Philadelphia, has filed a clearance complaint against RKO and Warners in the Philadelphia tribunal, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

Complainant claims that for a considerable time, one-half of the feature pictures have been licensed clear of the Century Theatre, Philadelphia, by the defendants and the other half following seven days after the Century. On those films played after the Century, complainant continues, there has been an undue delay encountered in booking Warners and RKO product because the Century has been dilatory in booking pictures licensed by those distributors. Complainant believes that neither theatre should have clearance over the other, and asks that all existing clearances between the two be abolished.

Blumenstock Maps 'Co-Pilot' Splurge

BUFFALO, Feb. 28.—With the cooperation of the Curtiss-Wright plant, maker of the fighting planes used by Col. Robert Lee Scott, author of "God is My Co-Pilot," an opening along the same promotional lines as the world premiere held last week in Macon, Ga., will be put on here for Warners' film version.

Among the inducements offered, in addition to various advertising, publicity and promotion activities which Curtiss-Wright will put behind the picture, is a potential audience of 100,000 from the plant's employees and families alone. Campaign plans are being mapped out with Mort Blumenstock, head of Warners' advertising-publicity in the East. The picture probably will go into Shea's Buffalo sometime in April.

To Promote 'Speaking'

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 28.—Louise Randall Pierson, author of "Roughly Speaking," will shortly begin a cross-country lecture tour in connection with key city play dates of Warners' film version of her book.

Flash! Flash! and Double Flash!

Here

is the first sensational flash from the field about one of the most important releases in years from

Paramount

"FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS"

Tops "Going My Way" By 19%

"FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS"
IN TECHNICOLOR
starring
GARY COOPER
INGRID BERGMAN
from the celebrated novel by
ERNEST HEMINGWAY
with AKIM TAMIROFF • ARTURO de CORDOVA
JOSEPH CALLEIA and KATINA PAXINOU
Executive Producer B. G. DESYLVA
Produced and Directed by
SAM WOOD
Screen Play by Dudley Nichols

And "Story of Dr. Wassell" by 26%
And "Lady in the Dark" by 70%

AT REGULAR ADMISSION PRICES

At Seattle's Paramount and Music Hall...
The tip-off on 12,000 dates to come!

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Feb. 3	SAGEBRUSH HEROES Charles Starrett O—54 mins. (6204) (Rev. 2/15/45)	(Special Release) MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS (Color) Judy Garland Margaret O'Brien M—113 mins. (512) (Rev. 11/1/44)	FOREVER YOURS Gale Storm C. Aubrey Smith D—83 mins. (Rev. 12/13/44)	(Third Block) HERE COME THE WAVES Bing Crosby Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts M—97 mins. (4411) (Rev. 12/18/44)	HIS BROTHER'S GHOST O—54 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) MARKED FOR MURDER O—58 mins. (Rev. 1/8/45) KID SISTER Judy Clark D—56 mins. (Rev. 2/2/45)		(Special) THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE (Goldwyn) (Color) Bob Hope Virginia Mayo C—94 mins. (551) (Rev. 10/11/44)			HERE COME THE CO-EDS Abbott and Costello Phil Spitalny and Orch. C—88 mins. (9002) (Rev. 1/31/45)	
Feb. 10	SING ME A SONG OF TEXAS Rosemary Lane Hal McIntyre Orch. M—66 mins. (6221)	(Tenth Block) MAIN STREET AFTER DARK Edward Arnold Selena Royle D—56 mins. (514) (Rev. 11/28/44)	CISCO KID RETURNS Duncan Renaldo O—64 mins. (429)	DANGEROUS PASSAGE Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4412) (Rev. 12/21/44)	SPELL OF AMY NUGENT (English) Derek Farr D—63 mins. (Rev. 2/15/45)	GREAT STAGECOACH ROBBERY Wild Bill Elliot Bobby Blake O—56 mins. (3317) (Rev. 2/21/45)	(Special Release) BELLE OF THE YUKON (International) (Color) Randolph Scott Gypsy Rose Lee Dinah Shore C—84 mins. (583) (Rev. 11/29/44)			HER LUCKY NIGHT Andrews Sisters Martha O'Driscoll M—63 mins. (Rev. 1/29/45)	
Feb. 17	TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT (Color) Rita Hayworth Janet Blair Lee Bowman M—92 mins. (Rev. 1/25/45)	MUSIC FOR MILLIONS Margaret O'Brien Jose Iturbi M—117 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/13/44)	GUN SMOKE Johnny Mack Brown O—57 mins. (455) (Rev. 1/19/45)	FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS (Color) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—158 mins. (4413) (Rev. 7/15/43)	FOG ISLAND Lionel Atwill George Zucco D—72 mins. (Rev. 2/15/45)	SONG FOR MISS JULIE Shirley Ross Cheryl Walker M—69 mins. (411) (Rev. 2/20/45)	(Special Release) THE THREE CABALLEROS (Disney) (Color) M—71 mins. (591) (Rev. 12/12/44)	(Feb. Release) (Special Release) A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN Dorothy McGuire Joan Blondell D—128 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/24/45)		THE MUMMY'S CURSE Lon Chaney D—60 mins. (9036) (Rev. 12/22/44)	OBJECTIVE, BURMA Errol Flynn D—144 mins. (411) (Rev. 1/26/45)
Feb. 24	LEAVE IT TO BLONDIE Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C	BLONDE FEVER Philip Dorn Mary Astor C—69 mins. (516) (Rev. 11/28/44)	DILLINGER Elisha Cook Jr. Lawrence Tierney D—70 mins.	PRACTICALLY YOURS Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray C—90 mins. (4414) (Rev. 12/15/44)		SHERIFF OF CIMARRON Sunset Carson Linda Stirling O—55 mins. (454)	(Third Block) WHAT A BLONDE Leon Errol Elaine Riley C—71 mins. (511) (Rev. 1/29/45)	HANGOVER SQUARE Laird Cregar Linda Darnell D—77 mins. (516) (Rev. 1/17/45)		FRISCO SAL Susanna Foster Turhan Bey M—94 mins. (Rev. 2/16/45)	
Mar. 3	A SONG TO REMEMBER (Color) Paul Muni Merle Oberon Cornel Wilde D—113 mins. (Rev. 1/18/45)	THIS MAN'S NAVY Wallace Beery James Gleason D—100 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/4/45)		DOUBLE EXPOSURE Chester Morris Nancy Kelly D—63 mins. (4415) (Rev. 12/21/44)	THE MAN WHO WALKED ALONE Dave O'Brien Kay Aldridge O—74 mins. (Rev. 2/2/45)		THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE Dorothy McGuire Robert Young Herbert Marshall D—92 mins. (515) (Rev. 2/14/45)	THUNDERHEAD SON OF FLICKA Roddy McDowall Preston Foster O—78 mins. (518) (Rev. 2/1/45)	*(To be released during the period covered by this chart, but definite dates not set)* *BREWSTER'S MILLIONS* *Edward Small Prod.* *DELIGHTFULLY DANGEROUS* *Charles R. Rogers Prod.* *93 mins.* *(Rev. 2/26/45)* *IT'S IN THE BAG* *Jack Skirball Prod.* *87 mins.* *(Rev. 2/9/45)* *HOLD AUTUMN IN YOUR HAND* *Loew-Hakim Prod.* *THE GREAT JOHN L* *Bing Crosby Prod.* *96 mins.* *SPELLBOUND* *Selznick International Prod.* *2000 WOMEN* *G. C. F. Prod.* *BEDSIDE MANNERS* *Andrew Stone Prod.* *COLONEL BLIMP* *G. C. F. (Color)* *148 mins.* *(Rev. 6/9/43)*	SUDAN (Color) Maria Montez Jon Hall Turhan Bey D	ROUGHLY SPEAKING Rosalind Russell Jack Carson D—128 mins. (412) (Rev. 1/31/45)
Mar. 10	THE CRIME DOCTOR'S COURAGE Warner Baxter Hillary Brooke D	BETWEEN TWO WOMEN Van Johnson Lionel Barrymore D—81 mins. (518) (Rev. 12/21/44)	GI HONEY-MOON Gale Storm Peter Cookson D—70 mins. (406)	(Fourth Block) BRING ON THE GIRLS (Color) Veronica Lake Sonny Tufts Eddie Bracken M—92 mins. (4416) (Rev. 2/19/45)			HAVING WONDERFUL CRIME George Murphy Pat O'Brien Carole Landis C—70 mins. (514) (Rev. 2/16/45)	CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE Lloyd Nolan Michael O'Shea D—67 mins. (519) (Rev. 2/15/45)			
Mar. 17	A GUY, A GAL AND A PAL Ross Hunter Lynn Merrick Ted Donaldson D	NOTHING BUT TROUBLE Laurel and Hardy C—69 mins. (519) (Rev. 12/5/44)	DOCKS OF NEW YORK East Side Kids C—62 mins. (410) (Rev. 2/21/45)	THE UNSEEN Joel McCrea Gail Russell Herbert Marshall D—81 mins. (4417) (Rev. 2/20/45)			PAN-AMERICANA Phillip Terry Audrey Long Robert Benchley D—84 mins. (513) (Rev. 2/21/45)			THE HOUSE OF FEAR Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce D—69 mins.	HOTEL BERLIN Faye Emerson Helmut Dantine Raymond Massey D—(413)
Mar. 24	ROUGH RIDIN' JUSTICE Chas. Starrett Betty Jane Graham			SALTY O'ROURKE Alan Ladd Gail Russell D—100 mins. (4418) (Rev. 2/23/45)	STRANGE ILLUSION Jimmy Lydon Warren William D—87 mins. (Rev. 2/21/45)		BETRAYAL FROM THE EAST Lee Tracy Nancy Kelly D—82 mins. (512) (Rev. 2/19/45)				
Mar. 31	ROUGH, TOUGH AND READY Victor McLaglen Chester Morris D	KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY Lana Turner Laraine Day D—123 mins. (520) (Rev. 2/15/45)		HIGH POWERED Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4419) (Rev. 2/21/45)	SHADOWS OF DEATH Buster Crabbe O (Rev. 1/25/44)		(Special Release) THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW Edward Robinson Joan Bennett D—99 mins. (582) (Rev. 10/10/44)				
April 6	ESCAPE IN THE FOG Otto Kruger Nina Foch D ROCKING IN THE ROCKIES Three Stooges Mary Beth Hughes O		THERE GOES KELLY Jackie Moran Wanda McKay D—61 mins. (422)		CRIME, INC. Leo Carrillo Tom Neal D (Rev. 2/7/45)		(Special Release) IT'S A PLEASURE International (Color) Sonja Henie Michael O'Shea 90 mins (584) (Rev. 2/27/45)				
April 13	EVE KNEW HER APPLES Ann Miller William Wright									I'LL REMEMBER APRIL Gloria Jean Kirby Grant M—64 mins.	

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama. (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily *Review Date.*

WARNERS TIME IT THE WAY 'CASABLANCA' WAS TIMED

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 15-21

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 15-21

VOL. 57. NO. 42 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1945 | TEN CENTS

Brien, King, Matlack Are Top Showmen

Win Quigley Awards for Year's Best Campaigns

Lige Brien, James King and Jack Matlack have been adjudged the nation's top showmen, the winners of the 11th annual Quigley Awards competition for theatre showmanship conducted by the *Managers Round-Table* of *Motion Picture Herald.*

Lige Brien

The results of the judging by some 50 experts in the fields of advertising, publicity, showmanship and motion picture merchandising were made known here yester-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Companies Using Up Funds in Spain

Considerable amounts of blocked money, which U. S. companies have accumulated in Spain, are being used up in expenses incurred to maintain employes there, because virtually no new product is being admitted, it is learned here.

Although Spain is continuing to issue required import permits, which on the surface would seem to indicate that the Spanish Government has no desire to restrain imports, practice has been to curb these imports through the Ministry of Commerce, which has asked that the companies proceed slowly in using up the licenses.

Effect of this practice on Spanish theatres will not be felt for some time, it is understood, because a tremendous backlog of films has been accu-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Approves FCC Video Plans

WASHINGTON, March 1.—There is no fundamental conflict between the immediate post-war television service and the long-range development of the new medium insofar as the public is concerned, the Philco Corp. said today. In a statement for presentation to the Federal Communications Commission, now holding hearings on proposed television, FM and other frequency allocations, David B. Smith, director of research for Philco, said that by continuing commercial television on present frequencies, the FCC will be stimulating the fullest possible development of postwar television, and will give the public benefit of the new service as soon as war conditions permit.

"We believe that the 12 channels proposed by the FCC for immediate commercial television, plus those

(*Continued on page* 8)

Jack Levin Resigns As CPB Director

Jack H. Levin yesterday announced his resignation as director of the Copyright Protection Bureau with which he had been associated for the past 17 years. Levin's new plans are scheduled to be announced today.

Deny LaGuardia's 1 A.M. Curfew Plea

Washington, Mar. 1.—War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes today refused a request from Mayor LaGuardia of New York for an extension of the midnight curfew to 1 a. m.

LaGuardia's request is believed to have been made as a result of expressions by members of the City Council favoring a 1 a. m. curfew.

Loew's Seeks Sites In South America

Selection of possible sites for additional theatres in Central and South America by Arthur M. Loew, president of Loew's International, in those territories where the company is not adequately represented, may be accomplished as the result of his current trip there. Loew's presently operates one each in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Montevideo, Uruguay; Santiago, Chile; and one in Lima, Peru, and three in Rio de Janeiro.

Loew, who is making his first foreign trip since rejoining Loew's, is accompanied by Sam Burger, special

(*Continued on page* 8)

Rathvon Appeals for Final Red Cross Pledge Push

With the sky the limit and with $6,793,060 collected last year set up as a figure to be surpassed during the industry's 1945 Red Cross War Fund Week, March 15-21, N. Peter Rathvon, national industry chairman of the drive, is urging the few remaining theatremen who have not yet mailed in pledge cards to area chairmen to do so immediately.

Meanwhile, in advance of the theatre collection week, the nationwide canvass by volunteer workers began yesterday, with $200,000,000 sought throughout the country—$21,187,000 of it in New York City. The program here was inaugurated at noon in Rockefeller Center, with Red Barber, city drive chairman, presiding.

The New York Metropolitan area theatre collection campaign will be launched on Wednesday, March 15, with a demonstration at the Statue of Liberty replica in Times Square, preceded by a parade. On this occasion, a group of nurses' aids will be graduated with the traditional capping ceremonies instituted by Florence Nightingale, and it is hoped that one of the nurses who served at Bataan will be present to administer the oath.

Reports pouring in to Leon J. Bamberger, national campaign director, show that 13,071 theatres have already been pledged. This is 98 per cent of

(*Continued on page* 6)

WMC Surveys Industry, May Requisition

Board Probing Theatres, Exchanges on Manpower

Regional War Manpower Commission directors in the many critical labor areas are understood to be contacting film exchanges and theatre circuits to obtain information concerning the present numerical strength and other details about their staffs, a move which is viewed in some industry quarters as a prelude to a general requisitioning of a percentage of the workers.

Thus far, a specific requisitioning of industry workers for jobs considered more essential by the WMC has only taken place in a few isolated critical labor areas, including Omaha, Chicago and Indianapolis. Industry spokesmen believe the

(*Continued on page* 8)

Hearing Wednesday In Studio Dispute

HOLLYWOOD, Mar. 1.—Acting on the producers' request, the National Labor Relations Board today set March 7 for a hearing to decide whether conflicting claims of Set Decorators Local 1421 and IATSE Local 44 warrant holding an election to determine the appropriate bargaining unit.

Although agreeing to allow its members to participate in such an election, if held, Set Decorators officials described this as a "separate matter" and continued firm in their demand that the War Labor Board enforce its arbitrator's order directing the producers to deal with 1421 without further delay. A union spokes-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Reviewed Today

Review of "Hotel Berlin" appears on page 3.

They do not fail us. We shall not fail them.

Amateur Contests Return to Chicago

CHICAGO, March 1.—Weekly amateur shows as business stimulants, are making a comeback in film houses here. The feature is used to supplement weak film programs. The Downtown, Loop theatre, offers amateur shows on Fridays, the Oriental, on Mondays. Outlying theatres are staging amateur contests both to bolster business and to keep people away from the downtown area on Saturdays. The neighborhood theatres include: Logan, with shows Tuesday and Saturday, and the Oak, Fox, East, and Parkway, on Saturdays.

Kernan in New Job, Given a Luncheon

William E. Kernan, who on Monday will become affiliated with Donahue and Coe, here, was tendered a luncheon yesterday at the Hotel Bristol by his RKO associates. RKO executives attending included Malcolm Kingsberg, James M. Brennan, Harold Mirisch, Al Dawson, H. Russell Emde, Charles B. McDonald, William J. Kernan (father of the guest of honor), John Hearns, Lou Goudereau and Joseph di Lorenzo (master of ceremonies). Kernan was presented with a watch and scroll, on behalf of the group, by Harry Mandel.

James A. Procaccini, member of RKO's statistical department, has been promoted to the post vacated by Kernan.

Elect Shapiro SOPEG Chairman in Merger

Sam Shapiro of 20th Century-Fox has been elected chairman; Herman Liveright, Paramount, vice-chairman; Grace Walsh, RKO was re-elected secretary and Otto Langer, Loew's, was elected treasurer of the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild, Local No. 1, United Office and Professional Workers of America.

Sidney Young, who headed SOPEG before it merged with UOPWA Local No. 1, was elected secretary-treasurer of UOPWA, and Ellen Davidson was elected Guild representative of the SOPEG.

'Vets'' Citizenship Award to Shore

Dinah Shore, radio-screen star, becomes the first entertainer in America to receive the 'Citizenship Medal' award of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Commander-in-Chief Jean A. Brunner announces. Formal presentation of the medal, which is awarded to citizens with the highest records of service to the country, will be made by Brunner during one of Miss Shore's "Open House" broadcasts this Spring.

The honor is being accorded the singer in tribute to her morale-building services to our fighting men and women.

Personal Mention

TOM CONNORS, 20th Century-Fox vice-president in charge of distribution, will return to New York today from a Southern business trip.

•

NED E. DEPINET, RKO Radio Pictures president, is resting comfortably at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, Los Angeles, where he expects to remain for two or three weeks.

•

LT. JAMES O'SHEA, son of M-G-M's Eastern sales manager, has been assigned to the Louisville Air Base after 18 months overseas.

•

COLONEL ROBERT L. SCOTT, author of "God Is My Co-Pilot," will arrive in New York today for a series of radio appearances.

•

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, Loew's vice-president in charge of distribution, arrived on the Coast yesterday for a 10-day stay.

•

EDWARD M. SCHNITZER, United Artists Western sales manager, has returned to New York from a Midwestern trip.

•

SGT. TOM EVANS, U. S. Army, formerly of the Penn Theatre, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and JEANNE LINZAY have married.

•

NORMAN H. MORAY, general sales manager of Warners Vitaphone shorts, will leave the Coast today for New York.

•

JOSEPH DEITCH, film buyer for Tri-States Theatres, Des Moines, is in New York.

•

SAM SHIRLEY, M-G-M Chicago district manager, will leave here today for Chicago.

•

CARL FLOYD of Stein and Floyd Theatres, Atlanta, is the father of a 7½-pound boy.

•

JACK BOWEN, M-G-M New York manager will leave here today for a Miami vacation.

GEORGE L. BAGNALL, United Artists vice-president, will leave the Coast today for a two-week New York visit.

•

E. C. GRAINGER, president of the Shea Circuit, will leave March 10 for a vacation at Boca Raton, Florida. JACK SHEA, booker and buyer for the circuit, will return to New York Monday from Boston.

•

LT. JOHN SCULLY, JR., son of JOHN SCULLY, Universal New England district manager, has been freed by the Russians from a German prison camp in Poland, his family has been notified.

•

NICHOLAS GOGGIN, Cazenovia, N. Y., exhibitor, is in a Syracuse hospital with serious injuries sustained when he fell from his roof while shoveling snow.

•

RUTH GILLIS, assistant to MIKE SIMONS, editor of *The Distributor* and *Lo*, M-G-M publications, will leave New York today for a Miami vacation.

•

E. K. O'SHEA, M-G-M Eastern sales manager, and MRS. O'SHEA, will leave New York today for Boca Raton, Florida, for a vacation.

•

EDGAR B. HATRICK, M-G-M News of the Day executive, is vacationing at Colorado Springs.

•

JOHN MURPHY, assistant to JOSEPH R. VOGEL, Loew vice-president in charge of out-of-town theatres, is in Miami on vacation.

•

TOM WALSH, general manager of the Comerford upstate New York theatres, is the father of a boy, his third. He has one daughter.

•

JACOB WILK, Warner Eastern story and talent head, returned to New York yesterday from the Coast.

•

HERB ELISBURG, operator of the Studio, Chicago, is in Miami recuperating from an illness.

Briskin on Navy Film Assignment

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Samuel Briskin, lieutenant-colonel in the Army and formerly executive producer for Columbia and RKO, has begun a three-week assignment on Navy motion picture production at the request of Secretary of the Navy Forrestal. Briskin's duties will be in connection with the operations of the Navy Photographic Science Laboratory and allied phases of Navy film production.

Navy Photographic Services is headed by Capt. Gene Markey, USNR.

To Honor Magill

PHILADELPHIA, March 1.—Mort Magill, United Artists branch manager, will be feted at a luncheon to be held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel on March 5. The affair, in recognition of his recent promotion as branch head, will be sponsored by Motion Picture Associates.

Monogram and PRC Making OWI Film

HOLLYWOOD, March 1.—Phil Karlstein, Monogram director, will film an untitled short subject for the Office of War Information and the War Activities Committee, on lend-lease. The film, which will be produced by Monogram, is the joint effort of the latter and PRC and was arranged for by I. E. Chadwick, president of the Independent Motion Picture Producers.

Ryan Starts First For New Company

HOLLYWOOD, March 1.—Phil Ryan's first picture for his recently-formed company will be "Perilous Holiday," current *Collier's* serial by Major Robert Carson. The film is scheduled to go into production in the Spring and will be made, in part, in Mexico City. Major release is anticipated.

NEW YORK THEATRES

2ND WEEK
The Greatest Lode of Thrills in Town!
"THE BIG BONANZA"
starring
RICHARD ARLEN
ROBERT LIVINGSTON
JANE FRAZEE
with
George "Gabby" Hayes
A Republic Picture
First N. Y. Showing
REPUBLIC THEATRE
B'way, Bet. 51st & 52nd Streets

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Showplace of the Nation • Rockefeller Center
"A SONG TO REMEMBER"
PAUL MUNI • MERLE OBERON
Introducing CORNEL WILDE
A Columbia Picture in TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
'MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS'
Judy GARLAND
Margaret O'BRIEN
IN PERSON
VINCENT LOPEZ and ORCH.

Paramount presents
Veronica LAKE Sonny TUFTS
Eddie Bracken Marjorie Reynolds
"BRING on the GIRLS"
In Person
The Ink Spots
Ella Fitzgerald
Buck & Bubbles
Cootie Williams and his Orchestra
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett
Raymond Massey
"Woman in the Window"
AN INTERNATIONAL PICTURE
—A RKO RELEASE

SAMUEL GOLDWYN Presents
BOB HOPE
'THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE'
in Technicolor
Continuous Doors open 9:30 A. M.
ASTOR
Broadway & 45th Street
Popular Prices

WALT DISNEY'S
'The THREE CABALLEROS'
in TECHNICOLOR
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
NOW - - - Brandt's GLOBE

BETTY SMITH'S
A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN
20th CENTURY-FOX PICTURE
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.
ON STAGE! A GAY, SPRINGTIME REVUE

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Story of Manila In All Newsreels

First newsreel pictures of the battle of Manila were released to local theatres yesterday. The pictures show the general advance on the city through the shattered and riddled suburbs, the perilous crossings of the city's rivers, the arrival of General MacArthur on the battle scene and, the burning of large areas by the enemy. There are also scenes of the release of prisoners from Japanese concentration camps.

The five major newsreels are all devoted entirely to the subject.

Proposes Study of N. Y. Films, Arts

ALBANY, N. Y., Mar. 1.—Sen. Frederick Coudert, Manhattan, Republican, has introduced a bill creating a temporary commission to study the cultural resources of the state, and to devise ways and means for the advancement and promotion of the theatre, music, drama and the fine arts in the post-war era. The commission would consist of seven members, five appointed by the Governor and one each by the president pro tem of the Senate and speaker of the Assembly.

Its inventory of public and private institutions engaged in New York State in artistic and cultural activities would also include grand opera, symphony orchestras, operetta, drama, choral societies, ballet, painting, sculpture and allied arts and crafts.

The bill, which has been strongly endorsed by leaders in the respective fields, is designed to put New York in the forefront of states encouraging native American culture.

Mexico City Houses Adopt Uniform Wage

MEXICO CITY, Mar. 1.—Exhibitors' operating costs have risen with acceptance of employee demands for a 'standardized wage' for the 75 houses in the city. The new daily wage scale, highest for workers to date, is

Chief of employes, $5.40; two projectionists, $5.40 each; one box office girl, $3.75; two doormen, $3.30 each; one guard, $2.75; four porters, $2.10 each, and one bellhop, $1.80.

To Broadcast Awards

HOLLYWOOD, Mar. 1.—All presentations in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' 17th Annual awards ceremony on March 15 will be broadcast coast-to-coast by the Blue Network over 196 stations. The program will run 9:30-10:30 p.m., PWT.

'Bernadette' Returns

As part of the company's 30th anniversary, 20th Century-Fox has arranged for a return engagement, at popular prices, of "The Song of Bernadette," at the Rivoli Theatre, New York, on March 14, following "Keys of the Kingdom."

Altec Renews Homan

CHICAGO, March 1.—Altec Service, announces that Homan Photoplay Co., Chicago, has renewed agreements with Altec to service sound equipment.

Review

"Hotel Berlin"

(Warners)

THE timeliness of this picture of the final, numbered days before the overthrow of Nazism and the collapse of Germany is its greatest asset and the item of most interest to exhibitors. The time of the action of the widely read Vicki Baum novel has been advanced in the screenplay from 1943, when the defeat of Germany was just beginning to become apparent to Germans, to the present time, when defeat is accepted as inevitable. The result is a picture which, if it is not quite out of today's newspapers, is not enough unlike them for the difference to be important.

Added to its significant timeliness is action, suspense, romance and other tried and proven ingredients that make this exploitation picture a "natural" for the box office. Exhibitors should find it as easy to sell as the current newspapers whose headlines sell themselves.

The Nazi capital's Hotel Berlin is the show window in this production for the assorted types that have made Germany what it is. There are Nazi party officials, Gestapo men, the military class, the civilians favored by either or both. And there are members of the Underground. One of the latter is played by Helmut Dantine, who finds himself trapped in the hotel by the Gestapo. Given refuge in her suite by a German actress, played by Andrea King, Dantine manages to elude his pursuers for 24 hours despite an ever tightening net and, once, only by killing a Gestapo leader who learned of Dantine's whereabouts through an informer, played by Faye Emerson. Eventually, by duping Kurt Kreuger, in the role of a Luftwaffe major, Dantine makes good his getaway and rejoins the Underground. Learning that the infatuated Nazi actress has betrayed him in order to save herself, Dantine shoots and kills her when she comes to Underground headquarters to plead her love for him. The two instances of cold-blooded, however desperate killings, make the picture unsuitable for children.

Upon this framework of the hunted and the hunters is superimposed a miniature of the last hours of Nazism, replete with military plots against Hitler, Gestapo vengeance and cruelty, the attempted flight of doomed party officials, excoriations of the German people and suggestions of groundwork being laid for the next Germanic war. The Louis Edelman production, directed by Peter Godfrey, keeps the sidelights in perspective while concentrating on the adventures of the Underground fugitive. Supporting roles are ably handled by a cast which includes Raymond Massey, Peter Lorre, Alan Hale, George Coulouris, Henry Daniell and Helene Thimig.

Running time, 98 minutes. Adult classification. Release, March 17.

SHERWIN KANE

Missouri Legislature Opposes Petrillo

ST. LOUIS, Mar. 1.—The Missouri Legislature has joined with Congress in attempting to legislate against James Petrillo and the AFM. A bill introduced by State Senator H. R. Williams, of Cassville, would make it unlawful for any person or group to interfere with the presentation, transmission or broadcast of any non-commercial, cultural or other program by a tax-exempt school or civic organization.

Film, Radio Included In New N.Y. Libel Law

ALBANY, N. Y., Mar. 1.—Representative Steingut has introduced a bill in the Assembly here, which has been referred to the committee on codes, seeking to amend the state penal law with respect to libel.

A new phase of the law states that it is libelous to expose any person or persons to hatred, contempt, ridicule or obloquy, through press, radio or motion pictures.

To Vote on Sunday Films

LEBANON, Tenn., Mar. 1.—Sunday films in Lebanon, started at the request of military officials during the war maneuvers in this area, may be continued, but not until after the question is settled by an election.

Push Sunday Shows

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Mar. 1.—Defeated in its efforts to obtain Sunday films by election of the people, those who favor them plan to have a bill introduced in the Tennessee legislature, now in session.

1st Open-Air House in Maritime Provinces

HALIFAX, N. S., Mar. 1.—First open-air theatre in the Maritime Provinces is being established in Fleming Park, suburban Halifax, by Mrs. Margaret Martin, who has been park concessionaire.

City council has approved her application but will, however, retain supervision and control through the Park Commission. Mrs. Martin is now buying seats and equipment and expects to start operations about Mid-May and continue through September.

Friedman Volunteers To Aid Burma Films

LONDON, Mar. 1.—Joseph Friedman, Columbia's British managing director, and chairman of the Kinematograph Renters Society services committee, has volunteered to visit Burma in order to straighten out the muddled film supply to Britain's "forgotten 14th Army" but, as a consequence of speedy improvisation of a film supply here, the Army now feels that it can handle the situation.

Theatre Competition

PHILADELPHIA, Mar. 1.—A bill which would permit churches, fire companies and servicemen's organizations to conduct bingo games, providing they meet certain State requirements, is before the Senate's Law and Order Committee.

New NSS Machine

Star Manufacturing Co., St. Louis, will manufacture a special 'theatre model' popcorn machine for distribution by National Theatre Supply.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, March 1

COLUMBIA has borrowed Marjorie Reynolds from Paramount to star in a musical, "Song of Broadway." She will play the role originally announced for Marguerite Chapman. . . . Leon Errol and Edgar Kennedy have been signed to new contracts by RKO Radio calling for each to star in six comedy shorts during the coming year.

•

Phil Ford, nephew of director John Ford, has been promoted to full directorship. He will handle the reins on "The Tiger Lady" for Universal. . . . Walter Colmes has acquired screen rights to "The Web" from Phillip Yordan, and will produce and direct it. . . . George Macready, who scored in Columbia's "A Song to Remember," has been signed by that studio to a long-term contract.

•

Phil Karlstein's first directorial assignment under his new four-picture contract with Monogram will be "Swing Parade," which Lindsley Parsons is set to produce. . . . Universal has signed designer Travis Banton to a long-term deal. . . . William Girard will produce, and Robert Webb will direct "The Black Mart" for 20th Century-Fox.

•

"Powder Room," story by Barry Shipman, has been purchased by Columbia as a vehicle for Charles Starrett and Smiley Burnette. Colbert Clark is set to produce under supervision of Jack Fier. . . . Universal has exercised its option on Peggy Ryan and Lon Chaney. . . . Barre Lyndon has been signed to write the screenplay for "The Verdict," which William Jacobs will produce for Warners.

•

Directors Frank MacDonald and Lesley Selander have had their contracts renewed by Republic. . . . Louis King has been named to direct "Command to Embezzle" for 20th Century-Fox. . . . Louise Allbritton and Rod Cameron will co-star with Susannah Foster and Robert Paige in Universal's "Once Upon a Dream."

•

Beverly Johnson has been signed to a term deal by Paramount. She will make her first screen appearance in the Mitchell Leisen production, "Masquerade in Mexico." . . . Ruth Donnelly has been selected for a featured role in the initial Rainbow Production, "The Bells of St. Mary's," to be released by RKO with Bing Crosby and Ingrid Bergman as co-stars.

•

David O. Selznick has given Scott McKay an important part in "Duel in the Sun," which King Vidor is directing. . . . Dennis Morgan is set for one of the leading roles in "The Hasty Heart," recently acquired by Warners. . . . Brenda Joyce will play the feminine lead in Universal's "Pillow of Death." . . . Lindsley Parsons and James S. Burkett are leaving soon for Mexico City to secure background shots for future Monogram productions. . . . Fred Kohlmar, producer, will join 20th Century-Fox upon the conclusion of his present commitment.

DOORS OPEN
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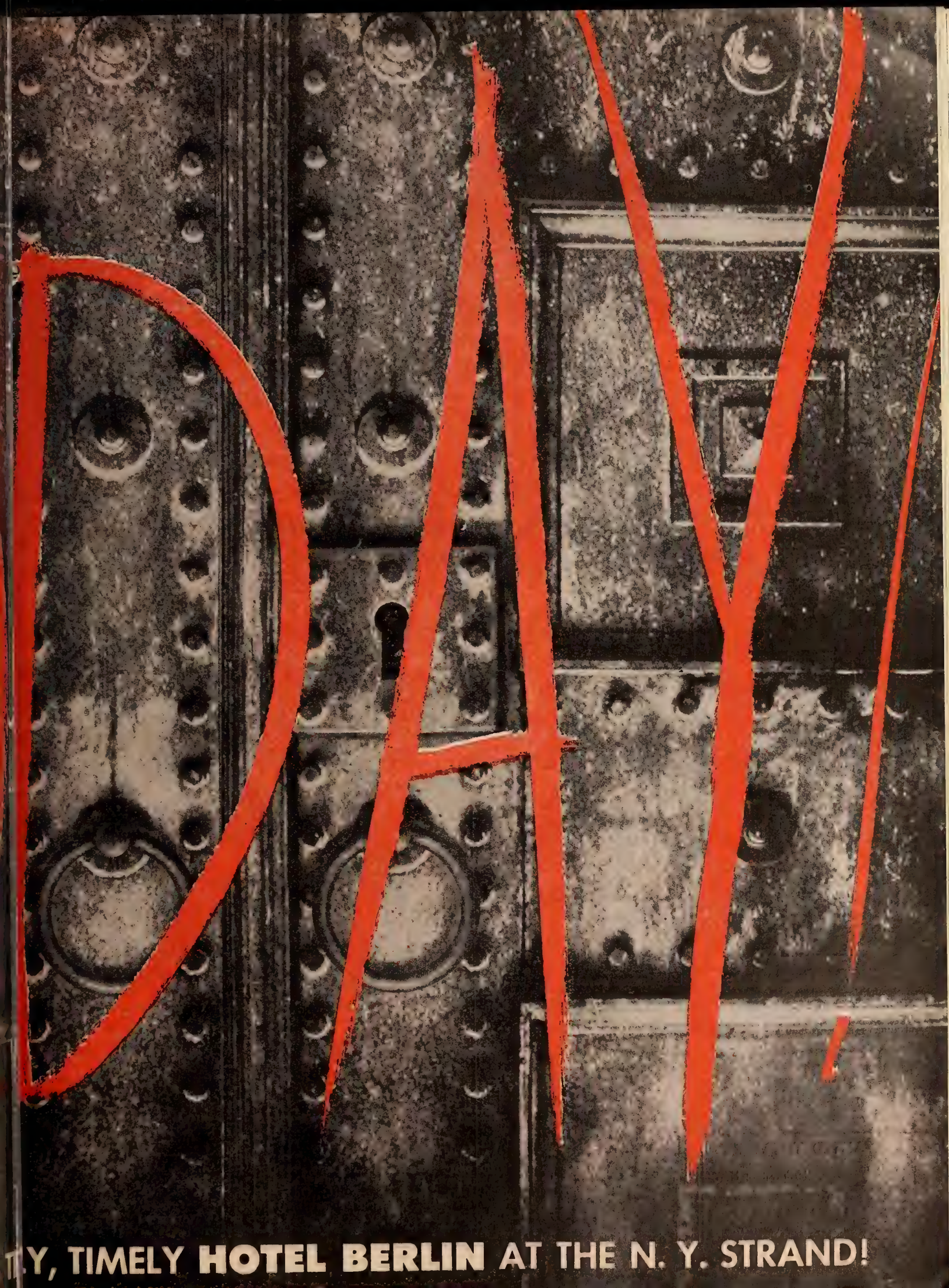
WARNERS' TIMELY, T



TY, TIMELY **HOTEL BERLIN** AT THE N. Y. STRAND!

Approves Minimum 55-Cents an Hour

WASHINGTON, Mar. 1.—The War Labor Board has opened the way for the establishment of a minimum wage of 55 cents an hour in all American industries, provided it will not push prices up.

The increase does not go into effect automatically, but the Board has authorized its regional boards to approve hourly wage rates up to 55 cents where employers voluntarily seek the increase or a union and employer join in the request.

The authority now being granted the regional boards, according to the Board's statement "is in effect an extension up to 55 cents of the authority given two years ago when the regional boards were authorized to fix rates up to 50 cents for the purpose of determining adjustments to correct substandards of living."

In dispute cases, however, the Board authorized its 10 regional units to "take into consideration appropriate prevailing rates in making determinations."

War Forces Milwauke House to Drop Acts

MILWAUKEE, Mar. 1.—Unable to get sufficient vaudeville acts because of transportation difficulties, because so many players are with USO-Camp Shows, plus a shortage of name bands due to draft losses, officials of Standard Theatres, operating the Riverside, sole remaining vaudeville house here, will shift on March 30 to a continuous film policy at that theatre.

The Riverside, now showing a single 'A' film along with vaudeville, will resort to double billing, adding a 'B' picture to each program.

Hooper Surveys to Cover 75,000,000

C. E. Hooper, radio audience measurer, has announced a plan involving 'sampling' of audiences in population areas between 2,500 and 25,000 which will enable it to determine the radio program choice of a 74,432,702 segment of the nation's population.

This is an extension of the current Hooper '89-City Report' which samples a cross-section of all different types of radio service cities ranging from the largest down to 25,000 population.

NYU Film Conference

Production needs and uses of films in education will be the subject of a two-day conference of teachers, and producers and distributors of educational films at New York University, here, March 23-24. New films in eight special fields will be shown, and discussions on techniques of presentation will be held. "The Film in the Future of Education," will also be a topic of discussion.

WANTED THEATER
Private party wants theatre in town of 1700 or over, Northwestern N. Y. State near Albany, Syracuse, Buffalo or Rochester. Write,
L. BRANIGAN
1234 32nd St. Des Moines, Iowa

National Red Cross Chiefs

Photo-by Staff Photographer

The national committee of the motion picture industry's 1945 Red Cross War Fund Week, March 15-21, are pictured above, reading from left to right: Bernard M. Kamber, assistant to distributor chairman Gradwell L. Sears; L. E. Thompson, national executive coordinator; John J. O'Connor, home office contributions; Harry Mandel, national publicity co-director; N. Peter Rathvon, national chairman; Leon J. Bamberger, national campaign director; Herman Robbins, trailers and accessories; Henderson M. Richey, meeting arrangements; E. M. Schnitzer, assistant to distributor chairman Sears; S. Barret McCormick, national publicity co-director; Arthur M. Brilant, national publicity coordinator.

Rathvon Appeals for Final Red Cross Pledge Push

(*Continued from page* 1)

the 13,434 that were pledged last year. Total number of houses in the country is 16,480.

Five exchange territories, so far, are pledged 100 per cent; 200 theatres in Albany, 292 in Buffalo, 500 in San Francisco, 56 in Rhode Island and 33 in Delaware. Other pledges stand as follows: Atlanta, 526 of 978 houses; Boston, 485 of 682; Charlotte, 402 of 555; Chicago, 695 of 710; Cincinnati, 371 of 544; Cleveland, 450 of 480; Dallas 780 of 1,030; Denver, 139 of 318; Des Moines, 320 of 381; Detroit, 357 of 582; Indianapolis, 260 of 360; Kansas City, 424 of 540; Los Angeles, 421 of 619; Memphis, 430 of 434; Milwaukee, 343 of 355; Minneapolis, 710 of 826; New Haven, 181 of 185; Northern New Jersey, 247 of 262; New Orleans, 408 of 531; New York, 724 of 728; Oklahoma City, 348 of 434; Omaha, 295 of 356; Philadelphia, 623 of 629; Pittsburgh, 601 of 606; Portland, 201 of 219; St. Louis, 464 of 550; Salt Lake City, 178 of 378; Seattle, 135 of 281; Washington, D. C., 60 of 63; Kentucky, 118 of 254; Virginia, 140 of 307; Maryland, 154 of 222.

Set of Reminders

With two weeks left before the start of the collections, S. Barret McCormick and Harry Mandel, national publicity directors, have prepared the following check-list of reminders to all theatremen participating, with the suggestion that they contact their area public relations directors for additional help or information:

Have you arranged for theatre decorations, valances, banners, flags, burgees, etc.? Did you get your gratis Red Cross Kit with a 40x60, 30x40, and midget cards? Are you all set for collections, including your volunteer workers, a trained staff, Red Cross slide and special events? Are you using the ad slug? Did you receive the Red Cross trailer and did you arrange for an opening day parade? Are your war heroes lined up to make appeals and did you get an official proclamation from the mayor, borough president or the governor? Have you secured radio cooperation and will your newspaper run a special editorial? Have you contacted your local Red Cross chapter? Are you holding a children's matinee and do you have a container at the box office? Are you living up to your pledge and has your staff contributed 100 per cent? Have you any school tie-ups, such as poster contests? Have you shown the Red Cross short and are you doing everything in your power to make this Red Cross drive the best ever held in your theatre?

Ten commandments for Red Cross Week, prepared by national chairman Rathvon, are:

(1) Collections every day for all seven days; (2) Show the trailer and take collections at every performance; (3) Where possible, show "The Enemy Strikes" just before the Red Cross trailer; (4) Be sure to have right kind of containers—glass jars where they can see money, preferable; (5) Be sure house lights are up; (6) Use material sent by National Screen Service, and also the pressbook; (7) Have ample people to take the collection; (8) Keep records and reports straight and send in promptly; (9) If possible, have appropriate music or transparency on screen; (10) Don't be afraid to take collections.

31 Stars Plead for Red Cross Campaign

Thirty-one screen stars who have been overseas entertaining Armed Forces have joined in the campaign to enlist more theatres in the industry's 1945 Red Cross War Fund Week by writing personal letters on behalf of the Red Cross to exhibitors, relating some of the war incidents seen abroad.

Stars participating include: Fred Astaire, Jack Benny, Edgar Bergen, Ingrid Bergman, Joan Blondell, Humphrey Bogart, Mary Brian, Joe E. Brown, James Cagney, Jerry Colonna, Gary Cooper, Bing Crosby, Olivia de Havilland, Marlene Dietrich, Jinx Falkenberg, Kay Francis, Clark Gable, John Garfield, Paulette Goddard, Bob Hope, Al Jolson, Carole Landis, Francis Langford, Mitzi Mayfair, George Raft, Martha Raye, Edward G. Robinson, Ann Sheridan, Dinah Shore, Spencer Tracy and Vera Vague.

Brooklyn Volunteers To Meet on Monday

Red Cross volunteer workers who will captain the various Brooklyn theatres will meet Monday evening with Edward C. Dowden, chairman of the Brooklyn chapter theatre committee, presiding. Addresses will be made by Walter "Red" Barber, general chairman, New York City 1945 War Fund; Surrogate Francis D. McGarey, chairman, community appeals; Col. J. H. Bigley, executive director of the Brooklyn chapter, and several representatives of Brooklyn theatres. Mrs. Ruth Nathan, co-chairman of the Brooklyn chapter committee, and Mrs. Frances Gordon, chairman of displays, will also be present, and arrangements have been made for the appearance of a film star.

Charles Skouras Opens San Francisco Meeting

SAN FRANCISCO, March 1.—Charles P. Skouras, president of Fox West Coast Theatres, presided at a luncheon in the St. Francis Hotel, here, opening Northern California's industry participation in the national Red Cross campaign.

WE Sales up 30% To $926,851,000

Earnings of Western Electric Co. and subsidiares were $13,858,000 in 1944, substantially the same as in the preceding year, nothwithstanding the fact that total sales amounted to $926,851,000, largely exceeding any previous year and running 30 per cent ahead of 1943, according to the annual report of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., released here. Some 85 per cent of the sales were to the Government, compared with 83 per cent the year before, and are subject to renegotiation, it was pointed out.

Television Plans

The statement reiterated that the Bell System expects to play an active role in bringing television to the public after the war by providing facilities over which programs can be transmitted throughout the entire country. "Standard telephone wires are now used for transmitting television pictures over short distances," the report said, adding: "Coaxial cables are also suitable for television networks, and the System is planning to construct several hundred thousand miles of such cables."

Also predicted for the future were "new and increased fields for use of radio in the telephone business." It will probably be used increasingly for bridging water barriers and reaching isolated communities, the report explained, pointing out also that microwave radio may be employed for long-distance transmission of sound programs and television.

Bell Telephone Laboratories, according to the statement, continued last year to devote its efforts almost wholly to the needs of the fighting forces. As soon as possible, however, an experimental radio relay system between New York and Boston will be built and tested.

You'll need EXTRA TIME (*like Los Angeles, 2nd week in Three Theatres! — like Philadelphia and Indianapolis, 2nd week*). Just beginning its nationwide box-office career but already headlined for hit history! Des Moines puts it in TWO theatres! Phenomenal holdovers at Kansas City, Houston, Atlanta, Syracuse, Charleston, W. Va., Salt Lake City. *Get on Velvet!*

YES, it's M-G-M's Technicolor Honey!

NATIONAL VELVET

WMC Surveys Industry, May Requisition

(Continued from page 1)

WMC is awaiting action on the war-work - or - fight legislation now pending before the Senate before moving in generally on the industry to take some of its help.

No industry-wide action is contemplated either by the theatre division of the War Activities Committee or exchange operational heads of the film companies to contest the WMC at present, it is learned. The feeling is that the demand by the WMC that film workers' quotas be reduced by 10 per cent in some areas is not unreasonable, if it is necessary, and the situation can be coped with provided key personnel is not demanded. Action will probably be taken where the demand for 10 per cent of personnel would really seriously interfere with normal operations.

Elsewhere it is felt that the demand for a certain percentage of theatre personnel can be met if the WMC will step in and adjust contracts affecting union help, such as projectionists and stagehands, where several are employed.

Companies Using Up Funds in Spain

(Continued from page 1)

mulated in Spain in the past two years, with upwards of 350 films having been imported into that country in that period. RKO is understood to have sold some 60 films in two years, with most other companies selling at least 40 each.

Recently, percentage selling of U. S. exports was eliminated and a flat rental basis substituted, by Government ruling, because Spanish authorities felt that percentage deals cost too much. Total yearly Spanish grosses for all U. S. companies is estimated at about $3,000,000.

Promote Four on Air

Four new Paramount pictures will receive publicity on a single Lux Radio Theatre program Monday, over CBS. Alan Ladd, Ann Richards and Akim Tamiroff will appear in an adaptation of "Disputed Passage," and credit will be given "Salty O'Rourke" as Ladd's forthcoming picture; "Love Letters," as Miss Richards' next; "For Whom the Bell Tolls," as Tamiroff's current picture, and "Bring On the Girls," as an early release.

E. M. Martin a V-P

The appointment of Edwin M. Martin as vice-president and secretary of Farnsworth Television and Radio Corp. is announced here by E. A. Nicholas, president. Martin has been with the company as secretary and counsel since 1939, when the present organization was formed. In addition to his new duties, he will continue in charge of the company's legal department.

Brien, King, Matlack Win Top QP Showmen Awards

(Continued from page 1)

day, following balloting, at a special luncheon at the Hotel Astor, here, last Monday, on campaigns submitted by scores of showmen all over the country.

The annual winners for the past year were cited as follows:

Lige Brien, the Silver Grand Award, for his exploitation accomplishments as manager of Warners' Enright Theatre in Pittsburgh. Brien also won the Silver Grand Award in 1941 for his efforts in behalf of the same circuit; James King, the Bronze Grand Award, for showmanship in Boston. "Red" King is publicity director of RKO Theatres in Boston; Jack Matlack, the War Showmanship Award for the third year. Matlack, advertising - publicity director of J. J. Parker Theatres in Portland, Ore., now has four top Quigley honors, having won the Silver Grand Award last year in addition to the War Showmanship Award.

James King

G. S. Eyssell, managing director of Radio City Music Hall, here, speaking at the luncheon, praised the Round Table department of *Motion Picture Herald* as a forum for ideas and as an institution which "gives a pat on the back" to exhibitors for their showmanship efforts.

"The Managers Round Table is not only a clearing house for ideas on exploitation, publicity and promotion and a meeting place for personnel concerned with these things," said Martin Quigley in introducing Eyssell, "but it also, in these upset times, provides an invaluable point of contact for men on the battle fronts of the world."

Emphasizing the importance of keeping faith with the public, Eyssell praised the Round Table as a forum of discussion and suggestion providing a valuable interchange of ideas. He urged exhibitors to make full use of the department's facilities, and declared that the industry was indebted to Quigley Publications for the incentive to good showmanship inherent in the annual Quigley Showmanship Awards.

"The basic principles of showmanship are the same," Eyssell said, "whether you are an exhibitor in Vermont, in California. The results should be the same if the job is done well."

Leading contenders for the Awards honors in the consideration of the judges were: Gertrude Bunchez, Loew's Century, Baltimore; Arnold J. Coffey, Carolina Theatre, Hickory, N. C.; Sid Dickler, Warners' Belmar, Pittsburgh; Jack Foxe, Loew's Columbia, Washington; Edgar Goth, Fabian, Stapleton, S. I.; Margaret Goyette, Denham Theatre, Denver; Phil Katz, Centre, Pittsburgh; Frank LaBar, Imperial, Asheville, N. C.; Lou Mayer, RKO Palace, Chicago; Rita Morton, RKO Albee, Providence; Jack Matlack, Broadway Theatre, Portland, Ore.; George Peters, Loew's, Richmond, Va.; Joseph Samartano, Loew's State, Providence; Chuck Shannon, Columbia Theatre, Sharon, Pa.; Michael Stranger, College Theatre, New Haven; Charles B. Taylor, Shea's, Buffalo.

Jack Matlack

The judges at the annual luncheon were: Leon Bamberger, James Brennan, Barry Buchanan, Rodney Bush, Wing Commander J. W. Davies, Albert Deane, George Dembow, Oscar A. Doob, Steve Edwards, H. R. Emde, G. S. Eyssell, Edward M. Fay, William R. Ferguson, Erwin Gold, Harry Goldberg, Jack Goldstein, William J. Heineman, Hal Horne, Charles Reed Jones, Malcolm Kingsberg, Howard Le Sieur, Irving Lesser, Fred Lynch, George Lynch, Henry Linet, Lawrence H. Lipskin.

Also: F. J. A. McCarthy, S. Barret McCormick, Charles B. McDonald, Harry McWilliams, Harry Mandel, Seymour Morris, Alec Moss, John J. O'Connor, Lew Preston, Herman Robbins, Sam Rosen, Frank P. Rosenberg, Louis W. Schine, Charles Schlaifer, S. A. Schwartz, S. F. Seadler, Arnold Stoltz, Sam Shain, Stanley Shuford, Spyros Skouras, William White.

Lunch for Exploiteers

William R. Ferguson, M-G-M director of exploitation, was host yesterday to four field exploiteers and members of the trade press at a luncheon at the Astor Hotel, here. The exploiteers were William Prass, Denver; Austin McGough, Des Moines; Ernest Van Pelt, Salt Lake City; Price A. Shoemaker, Chicago.

'Tree' Heads for $15,000

Twentieth Century-Fox's "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" at the Roxy had an opening day take of around $15,000, the theatre reported yesterday. Record house figure of $14,900 was established by "Heaven Can Wait."

Markham, TBA Director

Emerson Markham, associated with General Electric for the past 20 years, has been named a director of Television Broadcasters Association, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Robert L. Gibson, also of GE.

'Pilot' Showing Mar. 19

"God is My Co-Pilot," Warner Bros., has been set for national tradeshowing Monday, March 19.

'Pilot' Release April 7

National release of "God Is My Co-Pilot" has been set for April 7. Picture goes into the New York Strand following "Hotel Berlin."

Philco Approves FCC Video Plans

(Continued from page 1)

which may later be added, will enable several hundred stations to go on the air after the war, and give a large part of the public a regular television program service on at least one channel," Smith said. "Many sections of the country will have the benefit of programs from several stations."

By taking such action, the Commission would be laying the groundwork for a larger postwar industry and provide employment and job opportunities for a great many people. He agreed with the Commission that years will be required to develop television in the experimental band from 480 to 920 megacycles to a point of commercial usefulness. He added, however, that in Philco's opinion, television in these experimental frequencies, if and when developed, will supplement the television service which is now being established by the FCC, in that part of the spectrum where most of the presently available engineering and operating experience lies.

"Undoubtedly receivers will be developed which will receive both services just as joint AM and FM receivers are now available," he said. "The Federal Communications Commission's decisions regarding television point the way to the fullest development of the medium, both for the years ahead and the longer future."

Loew's Seeks Sites In South America

(Continued from page 1)

home office representative. In Buenos Aires, they will direct the opening in one week of three M-G-M pictures dubbed in Spanish: "The White Cliffs of Dover," at the Ideal Theatre, March 20; "Gaslight," at the Opera, March 22, and "The Canterville Ghost," at the Normandie, March 28.

Both are expected to return about April 15.

Hearing Wednesday In Studio Dispute

(Continued from page 1)

man said the probability is that 1421 will wait through Friday for a favorable WLB action but may order a "walkout on an hour's notice" at any time if convinced enforcement is not forthcoming.

Walter T. Melvin Dies

Walter T. Melvin, 49, manager of the Riviera Theatre, here, died suddenly yesterday of a stroke. Melvin had been associated with Skouras Theatres for 10 years, and previously was with Fox Metropolitan and, for a short while, with the Music Hall. Services will be held Monday at the Church of the Good Shepard, 207th St. and Broadway.

Paul Gibbons Killed

SCRANTON, Pa., March 1.—Staff Sgt. Paul Gibbons, formerly of Comerford Theatres, was killed in action over Germany while serving as an aerial gunner with the Eighth Air Force.

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

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New Checking Organization Opens April 2

Five Companies Join Confidential Reports

Completion of organization of Confidential Reports, Inc., new national theatre-checking organization, scheduled to begin operations April 2, was announced on Friday at a luncheon at the Hotel Astor here, attended by representatives of member companies, the trade press and officers of the new organization, headed by John J. O'Connor, president pro tem, and Jack H. Levin, vice-president and general manager.

Initial members of the new organization are: Columbia, Paramount, RKO, United Artists and Universal. Organized on a non-profit basis, its services will be available to all pro-

(*Continued on page 7*)

W. B. Quarter Net Up to $2,368,565

Net operating profit of $2,368,565 for the quarter ended Nov. 25, 1944, was reported by Warner Bros. on Friday. Result compares with profit of $1,981,730 for the corresponding quarter of the preceding year.

Gross income for the period last

(*Continued on page 6*)

May 14-June 30 Is Set for 7th Loan

Washington, March 4.—Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., has announced that the Seventh War Loan Drive will be held from May 14 to June 30, with an overall goal of $14,000,000,000. Of this amount, $7,000,000,000 worth will be available for individuals and other non-banking investors. The "E" bond goal, highest since the campaigns began, is $4,000,000,000. All sales of "E," "F" and "G" bonds and Series "C" savings notes presented to the Federal Reserve Banks between April 9 and July 7 will be credited to the drive.

Morgenthau said there is every evidence that Federal expenditures will continue at a high level for some time.

Gov't Chances for Early Decree Trial Seen Here as Slim

Possibilities of an early trial date being set today for the Government's action to obtain a new consent decree embodying provisions for affiliated theatre divorcement and other revolutionary trade practice revisions are regarded in Federal court circles here as very slim.

When the Department of Justice, last Dec. 20, asked for a June trial date for its new decree hearing, Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard made it plain that, even should his trial calendar permit, he was unsympathetic to

(*Continued on page 6*)

McConville Heads Col. International

Columbia International Corp., incorporated last July 1, has announced officers, as follows: Joseph A. McConville, president; Louis J. Barbano, vice-president; Jack Segal, treasurer; David Fogelson, secretary; Bernard E. Zeeman, assistant treasurer; Bernard Birnbaum, controller.

The board of directors consists of

(*Continued on page 7*)

KEY CITIES BOOM, DESPITE CURFEW

Navy Sets a Record With Iwo Pictures

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Swift execution of carefully worked out plans enabled the Navy to bring newsreel footage of the Iwo Jima invasion to the American public in record time, according to Lt. Comdr. John W. McClain, USNR, officer in charge of the Navy picture coverage of that operation. He was the first person to return to the States since the invasion started.

Comdr. McClain brought the footage to the Navy Photographic Services in Washington five days after he left the beachhead of Iwo Jima on a Navy seaplane.

Describing the motion picture coverage of the operation, Comdr. McClain said: "Several weeks before the actual operation, we were given access to the Iwo Jima operation plan. After studying it, we wrote a script of the operation, blue-printing our photographic mission. We assigned approximately 60 cameramen to the job, including several to the fast carrier force that bombed Tokyo."

$18,373 Average Per Theatre for Week After Midnight Closing

First actual dollars-and-cents report on results of the Government's midnight curfew on film theatres, and all other places of amusement, discloses that not only was box office business unaffected adversely, as anticipated by many, but business during the first week of the midnight closing was among the heaviest in years.

***Motion Picture Daily* field correspondents report a weekly average gross of $18,373 for the first curfew week, at 134 downtown first runs in widely scattered cities, nearly $1,000 above per theatre average in the previous week and about $2,000 per theatre over the same week one year ago.**

While relatively few theatres were obliged to restrict performances be-

(*Continued on page 3*)

Hays Marks 23rd Year with MPPDA

Today is the 23rd anniversary of Will H. Hays as president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America. He resigned as Postmaster General in 1922 to join the MPPDA at the invitation of industry leaders.

Will H. Hays

At the organization's first meeting, on the occasion of the public introduction of Hays to the industry, were: William E. Atkinson, Robert H. Cochrane, Rufus Cole, William Fox, Samuel Goldwyn, Earle

(*Continued on page 7*)

AFM 'Stand-By' Fees Hit Recorded Film Promotions

Film industry procedure of taking instrumental music and songs off the sound tracks of musical films and placing them on waxed transcriptions for radio paid-ad promotions, has been dealt what is described as a severe blow by the American Federation of Musicians' demand for 'stand-by' orchestra fees from producers wherever this procedure is utilized. And, rather than organize any widespread protest against the AFM demand, film companies are generally abandoning the procedure and are using small orchestras for recording music for spot announcements for radio advertising.

The move against these transcriptions has been gradual, according to film company advertising-promotion representatives. It started when James Petrillo's AFM curbed the taking off of instrumental music and songs from sound tracks for transcriptions which were sent to radio stations gratis in the hope that they would be featured, free, along with the stations' regularly-played transcriptions. As many as 350 to 400 stations at one time gave free 'plugs' to films by using the promotional recordings besides the spot announcements sent to stations as part of an advertising campaign.

Paramount is the latest to feel the brunt of the new AFM procedure. Seeking to record portions of the sound track to promote "Bring on the Girls," the studio discovered that it would have to re-record the musical sequences desired, with an AFM orchestra, or pay stand-by charges of the equivalent of 42 musicians. This would have doubled the cost of the 'platter'.

Other companies making spot announcement discs for film promotions have been recording the music they desire in New York rather than attempt to use sections of the sound track and be forced to pay the stand-by fees.

Reviewed Today

Reviews of "Earl Carroll Vanities" and "I Love a Mystery" appear on page 7.

Personal Mention

SIR ALEXANDER KORDA has left New York for London.

•

M/SGT. WILLIAM M. LEVY, film advisor to the Director of Psychological Warfare Branch, Allied Force Headquarters in Italy, has arrived in New York after 30 months overseas.

•

WILLIAM PRASS, Denver; AUSTIN MCGOUGH, Des Moines; ERNEST VAN PELT, Salt Lake City; and PRICE A. SHOEMARKER, JR., Chicago, M-G-M exploiteers, left here Saturday

•

PVT. RICHARD J. CONNORS, MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S Albany correspondent prior to entering the Army, is in the Pacific war theatre on active service.

•

J. S. JOSSEY, producer and distributor, CHARLES DECKMAN and PERC E. ESSECK, circuit operators, all of Cleveland, are vacationing in Miami.

•

JOSEPH SEIDELMAN, president of Universal International, is scheduled to return to New York from a vacation in Mexico on Thursday.

•

HARRY CRAWFORD, manager of the St. Louis Missouri Theatre, has filed for the Republican nomination for alderman in that city.

•

CHARLES E. KESSNICH, M-G-M Southern manager, will leave today from Atlanta for Boca Raton, Florida, for a vacation.

•

PHIL CHAKERES, Springfield, Ohio, circuit operator, and GEORGE SETTOS, Indianapolis circuit operator, are vacationing in Miami.

•

DAVE BADER, trade press home office staff representative of 20th Century-Fox, observed his 54th birthday over the weekend.

•

HARRY LINK of Leo Feist, Inc., M-G-M music subsidiary, will return this week from a Miami vacation.

•

JOHN M. WHITAKER, assistant to RKO president N. PETER RATHVON, has left Washington for the Coast.

•

MAURICE N. WOLFF, New England manager for M-G-M, has returned to Boston from New York.

•

HAROLD ZELTNER, M-G-M Buffalo salesman, has married DENORA DOLIN of that city.

•

JACK SHEEHAN of Walt Disney Productions is in New York from the Coast.

•

LEON FROMKESS, PRC president, returned to the Coast over the weekend.

Largo to Paris-Peart

Ray Largo has resigned from RKO Radio's home office, advertising-publicity department, to become production manager for the Paris-Peart Advertising Agency, here.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

DURING the week of March 15 to 21 the industry once again will make its organized appeal to the public on behalf of the American Red Cross. At this writing, and 10 days prior to the theatres' collection week, approximately the same number of theatres have been enrolled as participated in last year's drive, in round numbers about 13,500, as compared with the more than 16,000 theatres pledged to exhibit films sponsored by the War Activities Committee.

What's wrong with those missing 3,000 theatres? By what line of reasoning did they arrive at the conclusion that they are not needed in an industry Red Cross drive or that such a drive is not deserving of their support?

In this drive, more than in any other, the Red Cross needs all the help that can be given it. First, the end of the war in Europe is widely anticipated by this Spring or early Summer. Some who gave liberally before will give less because of that, and some who gave a little, now may not give at all, mistakenly assuming that the need will not be as great in the coming year. Secondly, the Red Cross has set for itself the difficult goal of $200,000,000. Lastly, the theatres' collection week opens on the final day for payment of Federal income taxes, the unforgiven portion of 1943 taxes and balance of '44 and '45 after withholding taxes. It is a date not perfectly suited to a public expression of generosity in contributions to even so worthy an agency as the Red Cross.

•

The need for funds with which to carry on the Red Cross work for American service men throughout the world will not be lessened by the end of the war in Europe. Entirely apart from the continuation of Red Cross work in the Pacific, the end of the European war may well increase the organization's financial requirements. Millions of American soldiers will be detained in Europe for months after victory has been won simply because there will not be enough ships on which to evacuate them as rapidly as might be desired. Their need for all the facilities the Red Cross provides will be increased during their weeks and months of idle waiting. Time will hang heavily, as it does not during combat periods and at other times on active service. Then thousands of men who, perhaps, never before had need of the Red Cross, will look to it for comforts and diversion during the periods of their enforced idleness.

In addition, after the end of the war in Europe it is reasonable to assume that there will be large movements of men from Eastern war theatres to the West. At ports of embarkation and in transit they will have need of the Red Cros, as will the men remaining in hospitals and convalescent centers and civilians returning to devastated homes and towns.

•

To those 3,000 theatres which have not yet signed up to do their share in the industry effort for the Red Cross, these considerations are addressed. A week of collections at 3,000 theatres is an item not to be ignored in a cause such as this. It is not only that their participation may mean the difference between attaining or not attaining a given financial goal, nor whether or not some numbers of American service men, who may need them most, are deprived of Red Cross ministrations. It is, rather, a question of each doing his share, not leaving the task to the other fellow. And it is also a question of interest to the industry, whose war record can be marred by the defections of the indifferent few.

Permit us to propose a War Activities Committee citation, struck from brass especially for all theatres missing from the roles of this Red Cross drive's participants, bearing the slogan, "We let the other fellow do it."

• •

Crystal ball department: Sam E. Morris of Warners will transfer to the Coast soon on a permanent assignment. . . . Lou Pollock, former United Artists advertising - publicity director, will head a new motion picture advertising department to be established in Hollywood by a large New York agency already among the tops in the radio field. . . . Confidential Reports, Inc., new industry checking service designed to begin operations April 2, is looking for a "big name" to head the organization when it is completely established. A prominent Federal judge, a high FBI official are examples of the type sought.

M-G-M to Distribute For All in Greece

All companies, with the possible exception of 20th Century-Fox, have agreed to have Films Hellas, Ltd., M-G-M subsidiary in Greece, distribute their product in that country, it was learned here at the weekend.

Office of War Information overseas film bureau and Psychological Warfare Branch nominally distribute overseas in war zones, but, possibly manpower scarcity considerations and the fact that there are no American troops in Greece, have impelled the OWI to suggest that one company distribute for all. Twentieth-Fox may not be included in the agreement because it has Skouras Films Corp. in Greece.

Chicago Loses One Run, Gets Another

CHICAGO, March 4.—While the first-run Downtown Theatre has closed to turn, soon, into a stage theatre, the Loop's total of 11 first-runs may remain unchanged with the acquisition of the Monroe by James Jovan, tomorrow. He says that he will announce the policy after moving in, but will temporarily continue with second-run double features, current house policy. But he has booked "Behind Enemy Lines," exploitation film distributed by Globe Film, owned by Jovan, for a first-run date starting mid-March.

The Downtown was an outlet for Universal's 'B' product and some PRC pictures. Due to its limited seating capacity, the combination stage-screen bills proved a losing policy despite heavy business. N. S. Barger will continue as operator.

Extras Name Choices Ahead of Academy

HOLLYWOOD, March 4.—The Screen Players Union's extra-players, excluded from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voting this year, name "Going My Way" as the best picture of the year; "San Fernando" as the best Western; "Bombalera," best short subject; Bing Crosby, best actor, and Barry Fitzgerald, best supporting actor, both for "Going My Way"; Aline MacMahon as best supporting actress, for "Dragon Seed"; Leo McCarey, best director; Oscar Rudolph, best assistant director.

Warner Brothers Studio was cited as "the most cooperative toward extra and bit players."

Hollywood Council Elects M. C. McCall

HOLLYWOOD, March 4.—The Hollywood Council of Guilds and Unions has elected Mary C. McCall, Jr., chairman; Paul Harvey, vice-chairman; Ted Ellsworth, secretary treasurer.

Also appointed was a committee to draft plans for assuring re-employment of ex-servicemen.

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National Salesmen's Fraternal Group

Chicago, Mar. 4.—Reel Fellows Club of Illinois, film salesmen's group here, has started a campaign to form a national association of film salesmen, secretary Saul Goldman announces. Efforts will be made to first line up all other existing Reel Fellows organizations and then form similar branches in exchange centers where such groups do not exist. The proposed organization is contemplated only along inter-fraternal lines; no union affiliation with IATSE is sought.

Nebr. Fights Over Return of Ascap

LINCOLN, Neb., March 4.—Bill No. LB252, which would permit the return of ASCAP to Nebraska, came up for a warm hearing before the Legislature's Public Health-Miscellaneous Subjects' Committee, causing a postponement of action.

Speaking against the measure were Will J. Hotz, representing radio station WOW and several Omaha hotels and ballrooms; and Ex-Senator Frank Brady, introducer of the original anti-ASCAP bill, who said "ASCAP never has complied with the Nebraska law and if the act now is repealed, the Legislature should then repeal the code on monopolies."

Speaking for it were Melvin Drake, Lincoln, and Lloyd Thomas, Kearney, representing radio stations; Robert Livingston, Lincoln theatre owner; Sam Josephson, Omaha Hotel Association; Pat Miller, Nebraska Hotel Association; and Senator Labb Hubka, introducer of the new bill. They told the committee they desire the return of ASCAP because of fear of infringement suits.

John G. Paine, New York, general manager of ASCAP, said ASCAP withdrew from Nebraska when it could not operate in the state and protect the copyrights of its members under the Nebraska anti-ASCAP law.

Senator Hubka said ASCAP would file with the Secretary of State a schedule of charges and pay a three per cent tax on gross receipts under terms of the new bill.

Hotz said $400,000 had been saved Nebraska citizens by ASCAP by pulling out of the state.

Appeal Court Frees 18 in Gem Suit

ALBANY, N. Y., March 4.—Eighteen defendants have been ruled free from liability in a unanimous decision by the Court of Appeals in an accounting suit involving the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers brought by Gem Music Co. and other members of the Society against Deems Taylor, president and certain directors.

Those eliminated as defendants were Leo Feist, Miller Music, Robbins Music, ABC Music, Irving Berlin, Bregmann, Vocco & Cann, Carl Fisher, G. Schirmer, Famous Music Corp., Mills Music, Broadway Music Corp., Chappell and Co., Shapiro, Bernstein, Words and Music, Harms, Remick Music Corp. and M. Witmark and Sons.

Key City Receipts Boom, Despite Midnight Curfew

(*Continued from page* 1)

cause of the curfew, many first-run operators had feared that the early closing of night clubs might result in fewer people going down town. The high grosses would seem to prove, however, that night film patronage is not from the night club crowd.

The advent of milder weather than has prevailed is seen as a factor in last week's business, with many potential patrons who had been 'holed up' variously during the Winter, taking advantage of the opportunity to go to town.

February as a whole averaged almost as high in weekly receipts as did January—$17,643, compared with $17,962—and January's reports included the terrific business on New Year's Eve. February, moreover, gained substantially over the same month in 1944, when the average per week was $16,381.

"Meet Me in St. Louis" was the box office champion of the month, although it received varying competition from "National Velvet," "I'll Be Seeing You," "Here Come the Waves," "To Have and Have Not," "Keys of the Kingdom," "A Song to Remember," "The Princess and the Pirate," "Hollywood Canteen," "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier," "Tonight and Every Night," "A Song to Remember," "The Suspect," "Belle of the Yukon," "The Three Caballeros," "Music for Millions," "Objective Burma," "The Fighting Lady," "Hangover Square," "Dark Waters," "The Woman in the Window" and "The House of Frankenstein."

Composite key box-office reports for 1945, to date, compared with the corresponding weeks of 1944, follow:

1945 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre	1944 Week Ending	No. of Theatres	Total Gross	Average Per Theatre
Jan. 5-6	136	2,828,300	20,796	Jan. 7-8	117	2,417,700	20,664
Jan. 12-13	133	2,393,400	17,995	Jan. 14-15	134	2,040,700	15,229
Jan. 19-20	136	2,289,400	16,826	Jan. 21-22	149	2,311,400	15,513
Jan. 26-27	149	2,543,400	17,069	Jan. 28-29	147	2,365,200	16,090
Feb. 2-3	148	2,534,300	17,123	Feb. 4-5	153	2,512,200	16,419
Feb. 9-10	144	2,506,700	17,407	Feb. 11-12	137	2,220,000	16,204
Feb. 16-17	141	2,491,800	17,672	Feb. 18-19	155	2,459,800	15,870
Feb. 23-24	143	2,448,000	17,118	Feb. 25-26	161	2,760,100	17,144
March 2-3	134	2,462,100	18,373	March 3-4	147	2,397,100	16,307

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Quigley Presents NCCJ Scroll to NBC

A citation of merit for the "They Call Me Joe" series, was presented to National Broadcasting recently by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The presentation was made by Martin Quigley on behalf of the Conference and was accepted by Dr. James Rowland Angell, NBC's public service counselor, under whose direction the series was conceived and broadcast.

The scroll, which stressed the significance of the programs and their contributions in breaking down the barriers of racial prejudices, was signed by Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, Conference president; Ambassador Carlton J. H. Hayes, Arthur W. Compton and Roger W. Strauss, chairman of the Conference.

The series was broadcast in cooperation with the U. S. Armed Forces Radio Service.

Para., WAC Receive Awards from Press

The Foreign Language Press Film Critics Circle gave awards here Friday night to Paramount and the War Activities Committee for "Going My Way," and aid to the Armed Forces, respectively. Arthur Israel accepted for Paramount and Francis Harmon for WAC.

Specifically, the film was voted the outstanding feature of 1944, and the WAC was cited for providing, gratis, 16 films for servicemen overseas. Presentations were made over the municipal radio station, WNYC, with Newbold Morris, president of the City Council, delivering an address.

Report 'Lab' Worker Pact Talks Snagged

The negotiating committee of Motion Picture Laboratory Technicians IASTE Local No. 702 told the union membership at a meeting at the Fraternal Clubhouse here Friday night that negotiations for a new contract with some 20 processing laboratories and covering about 1,800 workers, were proceeding "most unsatisfactorily and that no progress has been made." John A. Francavilla, Local 702 president and other members of the committee reported that the companies had only offered to make a few minor concessions on vacation and severance pay, after five meetings.

The committee reported it would continue negotiations with the companies today, but if no further progress is made by next Friday, it will ask the union's executive board to call an immediate special membership meeting to take 'appropriate action.'

Sheehan to Resume Work in Fortnight

HOLLYWOOD, March 4.—Winfield Sheehan, who has been under hospital treatment, will be discharged this week and plans to return to the 20th Century-Fox studio in a fortnight to supervise the editing of "Captain Eddie," film based on the life of Rickenbacker.

'Berlin' Sequel Set

HOLLYWOOD, March 4.—Warners has announced "The Ghost of Berchtesgaden," to be produced by the staff that made "Hotel Berlin" and to feature the same players.

SMPE Asks Parity Between Home And Theatre Video

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Modification of its television allocations to provide a "parity of opportunity" between television broadcasting and theatre television was urged upon the Federal Communications Commission Friday by Paul J. Larsen, radio engineer assoicated with Johns Hopkins University, on behalf of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers.

Testifying before the Commission during oral argument on its recent allocation report, Larsen explained that the SMPE has never contended that theatre television is broadcasting.

Can Equal Record

"The motion picture industry is capable, based upon its past public record, of presenting visual and oral presentations in theatres, to carry out its obligation to present through this companion medium, television, equal presentations," he asserted.

The witness said that the proposed operation of theatre television would not be carried on by wire lines in the same manner as Muzak is today. The wire lines utilized for Muzak are high quality program telephone lines having a band width limit of approximately 7,500 cycles, he explained, while for television and theatre television utilization of coaxial cables will be experimented with.

Attacking a contention of CBS that only a limited number of people would benefit, Larsen said the SMPE doubted whether television broadcasting will have a greater public acceptability than theatre television or make greater use of the service in the public interest.

"We question the sincerity of the statement as it is so wholly unfounded," he said. "It is doubtful that anyone can question that the motion picture industry has at any time limited its service to a select few. The weekly attendance in motion picture theatres exceeds 85,000,000 persons and the industry is certain that this does not represent the 'upper income levels.'"

To Permit Competition

The witness told the Commission that the Society's purpose in requesting frequencies for theatre television was based upon obtaining adequate frequency allocations to permit competitive national theatre television service. For the immediate post war period, he said, it was recommended that frequency allocations be made to perimt competition by 15 producing or exhibiting agencies in an area such as New York City. This is certainly far remote from the contention implied by the Columbia Broadcasting System, that theatre television may set up a monopolistic franchise, he said.

Larsen said that the Society urged the Commission to reaffirm its allocation of frequencies between 480 and 920 megacycles for television, but modify its allocation of these frequencies to a "parity of opportunity basis" allocation between television and theatre television," as both of these services have an equal interest and an equal responsibility to the public in the visual and oral entertainment field.

RKO'S RACY
MURDER
PAT O'BRIEN
GEORGE MURPHY
CAROLE LANDIS
Having Wonde
COLLECT AT EVERY SHOW!
RED CROSS WEEK — MARCH 15-21
WITH LENORE AUBERT

RIOT OF AND MIRTH!

The funny side of homicide, on a honeymoon for three—bride, groom and "wolf!". . A super-laugh scramble of super-sleuthed clues and super-chased beauties!

ul Crime

Meet
CHILI WILLIAMS
. . . No. 1 polka-dotted pin-up!

oduced by Robert Fellows
ected by Eddie Sutherland·

Screen Play by Howard J. Green, Stewart Sterling *and* Parke Levy

RKO RADIO PICTURES

Gov't Chances for Early Decree Trial Seen Here as Slim

(*Continued from page* 1)
setting a trial date which would carry proceedings through the Summer months. Should the Department again ask for a June trial date, the court, it is believed, would make the same response it did last December.

Federal court attaches predict that the earliest trial date would be sometime during October.

In addition to pressing its motion for the setting of the earliest possible trial date on the decree action the Department, at today's hearing before Judge Goddard, is scheduled to argue its petition for a temporary injunction restraining defendant companies from granting clearance to theatres charging substantially the same admission prices. In order to win its injunction, the Department will have to show that the companies have violated the law. Failure to do, will mean that the petition will be summarily disposed of.

Violation Hearing

However, should the Department succeed in showing violations of the law, the court will have to set a hearing date for submission of evidence and testimony by both sides on specific instances of violations. The Government has indicated that, in such a case, it will rely upon 54 Arbitration Appeal Board decisions in clearance cases during the past several years.

Company counsel will reply in general terms at today's hearing to the Departments' arguments on violations of law under clearance procedures. Specific evidence or testimony will not be undertaken on the subject except in the event the court holds that violations of law may have been shown or indicated by the Government's arguments and thereafter sets a date for hearings on specific cases.

Pennsylvania Bill Hits Ticket Brokers

PHILADELPHIA, March 4.—A bill introduced in the State House by Representatives Joseph A. Scanlon, Philadelphia, and Harry P. O'Neill, Lackawanna, would permit State Police to license persons and concerns reselling theatre and amusement tickets.

Referred to the committee on state government, the bill would regulate the resale by brokers, and would prohibit the 'scalping' of tickets by certain dealers.

Tillie Jasie Dies

Mrs. Tillie Leblang Jasie, 63, manager for 13 years of the theatre ticket agencies here, founded by her first husband, the late Joe Leblang, died at her home here. Besides her managerial business, Mrs. Jasie backed several productions, and was known for her philanthropic activities. Funeral services were held yesterday at Temple Israel.

Schaefer to Coast

George Schaefer will leave here for the Coast Wednesday to close his deal with Lester Cowan. Schaefer will be gone about 10 days.

Red Cross Press Book Is Mine of Campaign Ideas

Correlated into a manual of ideas, information and promotions, the press book now in the hands of exhibitors participating in the industry's Red Cross War Fund Week, March 15-21, covers many angles of showmanship designed to put this campaign ahead of any previous drive.

Wrapped around the folded book is a die-cut cardboard jacket which folds up into a Red Cross collection container when the book is withdrawn. A three-color cover leads into a page of messages by industry leaders of the drive, and Basil O'Connor, chairman of the American National Red Cross, and Colby M. Chester, national chairman of the 1945 Red Cross War Fund.

A page of praise for the Red Cross by the military and naval leaders, with portraits and quotes, and a second page of pictures illustrating the work of the organization may be taken directly out of the book and utilized as part of the theatre's lobby display.

Activities Suggested

Continuing its coverage of selling angles, the book details ways to get the money rolling in with suggestions for activities before collections and during collections.

The book then highlights two pages of advertising material and theatre decorations, including the free National Screen mat of Red Cross advertising slugs, four display posters contained in the special Red Cross kit, and the burgee streamers, valances and ushers' badges which may be ordered from National Screen.

For newspapers and radio, publicity stories, spot announcements and editorials are provided, and before the last page is turned theatre men will find a complete list of national committee members, exchange area exhibitor and publicity chairmen, and district members of the distributors' division.

The book was prepared under the supervision of Arthur M. Brilant, national publicity coordinator, with the assistance of the art and publicity departments of RKO Radio and RKO Theatres.

Red Cross Times Sq. Show Delayed a Day

For the Times Square, New York, demonstration to be staged at the Statue of Liberty replica, in behalf of the Red Cross War Fund, on Thursday, March 15, efforts are being made to have the United Nations represented by children in native costumes. This is being arranged by Janice Rentchler of the WAC publicity committee, with the cooperation of editors of foreign language newspapers here.

Although the Times Square observance was originally slated for Wednesday, the 14th, Harry Mandel, national drive co-chairman of publicity, and Edward C. Dowden, New York City public relations chairman, changed the date so as not to detract from a parade of the Brooklyn Chapter of the Red Cross, scheduled for Wednesday.

A rallying song has been composed for the industry's Red Cross War Fund Week. Collaborators on the as yet untitled number are PFC Frank Loesser, who wrote "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition," and Hal Block, radio comedy writer, now writing for Milton Berle and Phil Baker.

Red Cross Tribute Is On Paramount Screen

A "Salute to the American Red Cross," is currently being shown on the screen of the New York Paramount Theatre, as a prelude to the industry's Red Cross War Fund Drive starting March 15. The presentation was conceived by R. M. Weitman, manager of the theatre, and arranged by Harry Rubin, projection supervisor. It opens with "God Bless America", which is followed by Army, Navy, Marine and Air Corps songs, and concludes with the Red Cross song, "Angels of Mercy," sung from the stage against a background of the rescue work of the Red Cross.

Showings will continue through the drive, at which time the regular Red Cross trailer will follow, while audience collections are being made.

Intermountain Theatres Back Red Cross Drive

SALT LAKE CITY, March 4.—Theatres throughout the Intermountain territory will cooperate 100 per cent in the American Red Cross campaign, according to Herman Wobber, Western manager for 20th Century-Fox, who is representing the National Film War Activities Committee.

At a meeting held at the Hotel Utah, Lt. Ralph T. Ballard was the principal speaker, and he has been assigned to speak nationally at theatre Red Cross meetings to aid the drive. Jacob A. Kahn and Verne B. Thorpe, field representatives of Utah, also represented the local Red Cross at the meeting.

Pearce Takes Over Austlet Franchises

NEW ORLEANS, March 4.—Jack Austlet, recently owner of the Astor Pictures, as well as Film Classics franchises, has disposed of his office and these will be handled in the future by Everett Pearce, it is understood here. Austlet, it is said, will open a 16mm distribution business.

'Gray' Record Claimed

"The Picture of Dorian Gray", broke all previous M-G-M records for openings at the New York Capitol, with a gross of $15,000 last Thursday, the company claims.

First Commercial Video

"Talk Fast, Mister," 10 minute-film produced by RKO Television Corp. for Liberty Mutual Insurance, Boston, will be televised tonight over NBC New York station WNBT and will be beamed to WRGB, Schenectady, and WPTZ, Philadelphia, marking what it is claimed to be the first time that a film made and sponsored for television is to receive such a network telecasting.

'Outlaw' for Labor Day

"The Outlaw" will not be nationally released until Labor Day, by United Artists.

Name Dr. Jolliffe RCA 'Lab' Head

Dr. C. B. Jolliffe, chief engineer of RCA Victor, has been elected vice-president of RCA in charge of RCA Laboratories, Brigadier General David Sarnoff, RCA president, announced last Friday following a meeting of the board of directors.

Dr. Jolliffe will succeed Otto S. Schairer who was elected staff vice-president and consultant and advisor on matters pertaining to research, development, patents, trademarks and licenses.

Before joining RCA, Dr. Jolliffe was chief engineer of the Federal Radio Commission and its successor, the Federal Communications Commission. Schairer joined RCA in 1929 as director of patent development, following 27 years with Westinghouse.

W. B. Quarter Net Up to $2,368,565

(*Continued from page* 1)
year was $33,093,321, compared with $34,413,961 the preceding year. Consolidated balance sheet, as of Nov. 25, 1944, showed current assets of $59,683,296 and current liabilities amounting to $29,325, 631, leaving working capital of $30,357,665. Current liabilities of subsidiaries operating in foreign territories amounted to $6,409,509, including bank loans of $2,125,804 guaranteed by the parent company.

Rieger Closes for 3 Brown Reissues

Jack Rieger of Trinity Pictures has closed a deal with David L. Loew, for the reissue rights to three Joe E. Brown pictures, originally distributed by RKO, and which reverted back to Loew. The pictures are "When's Your Birthday?" "Riding on Air" and "Fit for a King." Domestic rights are for five-and-a-half years and foreign for six-and-a-half.

'Dillinger' Rejected By Chicago Censors

CHICAGO, March 4.—The Chicago Censor Board has rejected Monogram's "Dillinger," and classified Columbia's "I Love a Mystery" for adults only. 20th Century Fox's "Hangover Square", originally given an adult rating, has had that raised by Police Commissioner James Allman.

Laemmle Buys Script

HOLLYWOOD, March 4.—Return of Carl Laemmle, Jr., to the ranks of the producers was indicated here at the weekend by his purchase of "The Life Story of Julian Eltinge," which deals with a famous female impersonator.

Loew Engages Fizdale

David L. Loew, independent producer distributing through United Artists, has engaged the Tom Fizdale office here to handle public relations.

Goldfarb Rejoins UA

Bob Goldfarb, who received his medical discharge from the Army recently, has returned to his former post at United Artists as accessory sales manager. Goldfarb had been in that post for five years.

Blue's Video Plans Outlined by Smith

Policies of the Blue Network in television, programming, public service and promotion were outlined by Fred Smith, vice-president in charge of advertising, publicity and promotion, at a luncheon for press representatives at the Hotel Waldorf Astoria here Friday. Representatives of Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborn were also present, with Smith announcing that the advertising agency has been engaged to handle the Blue's advertising, replacing Geyer, Cornell and Newell, who recently resigned.

Smith pointed out that the Blue will soon be operating on borrowed television facilities in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, becoming the first company to have the semblance of a network. He reiterated that the Blue has made no commitments for any television equipment but is providing its staffs with an opportunity to learn about all present types of equipment on the market. As a new network, the Blue has no fixed policies regarding the film industry or new business, Smith emphasized.

India, China Need Pictures: Newbery

"American films have been the backbone of all entertainment in India and China since the outbreak of the war, and have contributed to the welfare of hundreds of thousands of troops and war workers; and the results of this exploitation of the American way of life will be shown in the post-war period, when we confidently expect a tremendous boom in our films and rentals, even though they are high now," Charles Newbery, 20th Century-Fox managing director for India and supervisor of Free China, told the trade press in an interview Friday at the company's home offices.

Newbery, an Australian, has been in New York with his wife and child and is waiting for passage back to his Bombay headquarters. He said that India has some 1,500 theatres. Of these, about 380 played American films before the war; 550 show them now.

Hays Marks 23rd Year with MPPDA

(*Continued from page* 1)

W. Hammons, the late Marcus Loew, the late Carl Laemmle, the late Lewis J. Selznick, Winfield R. Sheehan, Courtland Smith, the late J. D. Williams and Adolph Zukor.

$34,212 for 'Dimes'

CINCINNATI, March 4.—A total of $34,212 was collected by Hamilton County theatres in the March of Dimes drive, it was announced by Arthur Frudenfeld, RKO divisional manager and local drive chairman. Of this amount, $22,594 was collected by RKO theatres, and the balance by independent houses.

Darcy Joins NBC Video

Don Darcy, stage manager and actor, has been added to the production staff of NBC's television department here. Darcy has made several films in addition to his theatre activities.

Reviews

"Earl Carroll Vanities"

(*Republic*)

AUDIENCES anticipating a lavish musical extravaganza or a cinematic tribute to one of America's well-known glorifiers of feminine pulchritude in Republic's "Earl Carroll Vanities," are going to be disappointed. This is an appealing, tuneful and diverting musical, starring Dennis O'Keefe, Constance Moore, and featuring Eve Arden, Otto Kruger, Alan Mowbray, Stephanie Bachelor and Woody Herman and his orchestra. It is not a revue of either past or present Earl Carroll glories. It is built around a simply told story with a musical-comedy background and deals with the experiences of a lovely princess of one of those obscure mythical kingdoms who breaks into show business while her family is floating a loan among American bankers to save their country.

Joseph Santley directed; Albert C. Cohen produced. The pace is leisurely and the music, composed by Walter Kent and Kim Gannon and others, for Miss Moore to sing, provides some of the most entertaining moments in this 91 minutes of footage. Miss Moore is the Princess Drina with more of a "yen" for "boogie-woogie" than for the state affairs of Turania. Alan Mowbray as the Grand Duke Paul is similarly interested in enjoying life and champagne. Through Miss Arden, proprietress of a night club, they both secretly take a fling at New York night life while the Queen is arranging a loan for their country. Also through Miss Arden, they meet O'Keefe, a promising young producer who is seeking to interest Earl Carroll, played by Kruger, in his show. Miss Moore becomes entangled in his affairs and, after many complications, the way is finally cleared for their romance.

Among the songs are "I've Been So Good for So Long," "Endlessly" and "Last Man in Town." "Rock-a-Bye-Boogie" provides the background for a spirited production sequence. Herman and his musical aggregation should prove a big box office click in this film; they have plenty to do. Frank Gill, Jr., did the screenplay, from an original by Cortland Fitzsimmons. Others in the cast include Pinky Lee, Parkyakarkus, Leon Belasco, Beverly Lord and Edward Gargan.

Running time, 91 minutes. General classification. No release date set.

MILTON LIVINGSTON

"I Love a Mystery"

(*Columbia*)

Hollywood, March 4

CARLTON E. MORSE'S radio show has been successfully translated to the screen by producer Wallace MacDonald. The first of what is planned by the studio as a series of mystery-dramas is subtitled "The Decapitation of Jefferson Monk," and the tale is as sinister as the title.

Jim Bannon takes the part of the detective, Jack Packard, and Barton Yarborough that of his friend, Doc Long. A wealthy young man, ably depicted by George Macready, appeals to the pair for help. He is being persecuted—so he believes—by members of an Oriental secret society who want, of all things, his head. Having foretold the date and hour of his death, the Orientals are bargaining with him for possession of his head, subsequent to his demise.

As the two detectives discover in the course of Charles O'Neal's screenplay, none of this far-fetched tale is founded in fact. It is all part of a plot devised by his wife to drive the man to suicide, in order that she and her accomplices may inherit his fortune. Her plans miscarry; instead of driving him to kill himself she drives him to kill two of her associates. She herself is exposed and brought to justice. Her husband, by a freak of fate, is decapitated in an auto accident, and his head is never found. Henry Levin's direction, and fine performances by the cast combine to make this topnotch filler fare.

Running time, 68 minutes. General classification. THALIA BELL

'Weapon of War' Ready

"Weapon of War," the Army Pictorial Service's cartoon on Nazi divide-and-conquer propaganda methods, will soon be released in Boston, New Haven and Philadelphia areas, the War Activities Committee, announces. The film is being distributed on a regional basis, the New York and Los Angeles areas having been covered to date. It runs five and one half minutes.

'Showbuilder' in Okla.

The M-G-M "Showbuilder" promotional unit, in charge of Mark Jenkins, under supervision of William R. Ferguson, M-G-M exploitation director, will visit 41 towns in Oklahoma during this month, starting today.

Collins Stays With Pathe

Frederic Ullman, Jr., president of Pathe News, has announced that Ted Collins has been retained as narrator for Pathe's "Sportscopes."

'Caballeros' Benefit

CHICAGO, March 4.—Hearst's *Herald-American* here is sponsoring a reserved-seat premiere of "The Three Caballeros" at the RKO Palace on Wednesday for the benefit of the War Veterans Fund. Hildegarde, Phil Regan, Zero Mostel, Bert Wheeler and Benny Fields will be featured on an accompanying stage bill.

Now 'Atlantic Adventure'

CHICAGO, March 4.—The British-made "Western Approaches," will be released by Paramount in this country as "Atlantic Adventure," the British Information Services advises. Change was made on the suspicion that this story of the Atlantic might be mistaken for a Western.

Carol Irwin Joins Blue

Carol Irwin has joined the Blue Network's talent and program development. Miss Irwin was previously in charge of daytime radio for Young and Rubicam.

New Checking Organization Opens April 2

(*Continued from page* 1)

ducers and distributors desiring them.

Branch offices will be opened in 31 key cities and leases have been signed already for quarters in most of the keys. A personnel of approximately 5,000 will be employed. Checkers will be paid from $5 to $7 per day, indicating a daily operating cost for checkers alone of approximately $30,000. Personnel, including branch managers, supervisors and five district managers, are being selected from outside the industry for the most part.

Operation Under Levin

Physical operation of Confidential Reports will be under the direction of Levin, who resigned last week the post of director of Copyright Protection Bureau, with which he had been associated for the past 17 years. O'Connor, however, will continue as vice-president of Universal. Other Confidential Reports executives include: Harold L. Groves, field director operating out of the home office in the RKO Building; Jules Willing, director of personnel, and Harold Saxe, comptroller.

Levin issued the following statement at the luncheon on behalf of the new organization: "Millions of dollars of business transactions each year depend upon the accurate and impartial reporting of theatre receipts. It is the aim of Confidential Reports, Inc., to render, confidentially, checking reports so as to provide the distributor and exhibitor alike with a sound and objective basis for the conduct of their business with each other. We anticipate the good will of the entire industry in achieving this purpose."

Levin said that aims of the new organization would be discussed with exhibitor organization leaders during the next few weeks.

McConville Heads Col. International

(*Continued from page* 1)

Harry Cohn, Jack Cohn, McConville, A. Schneider and Barbano.

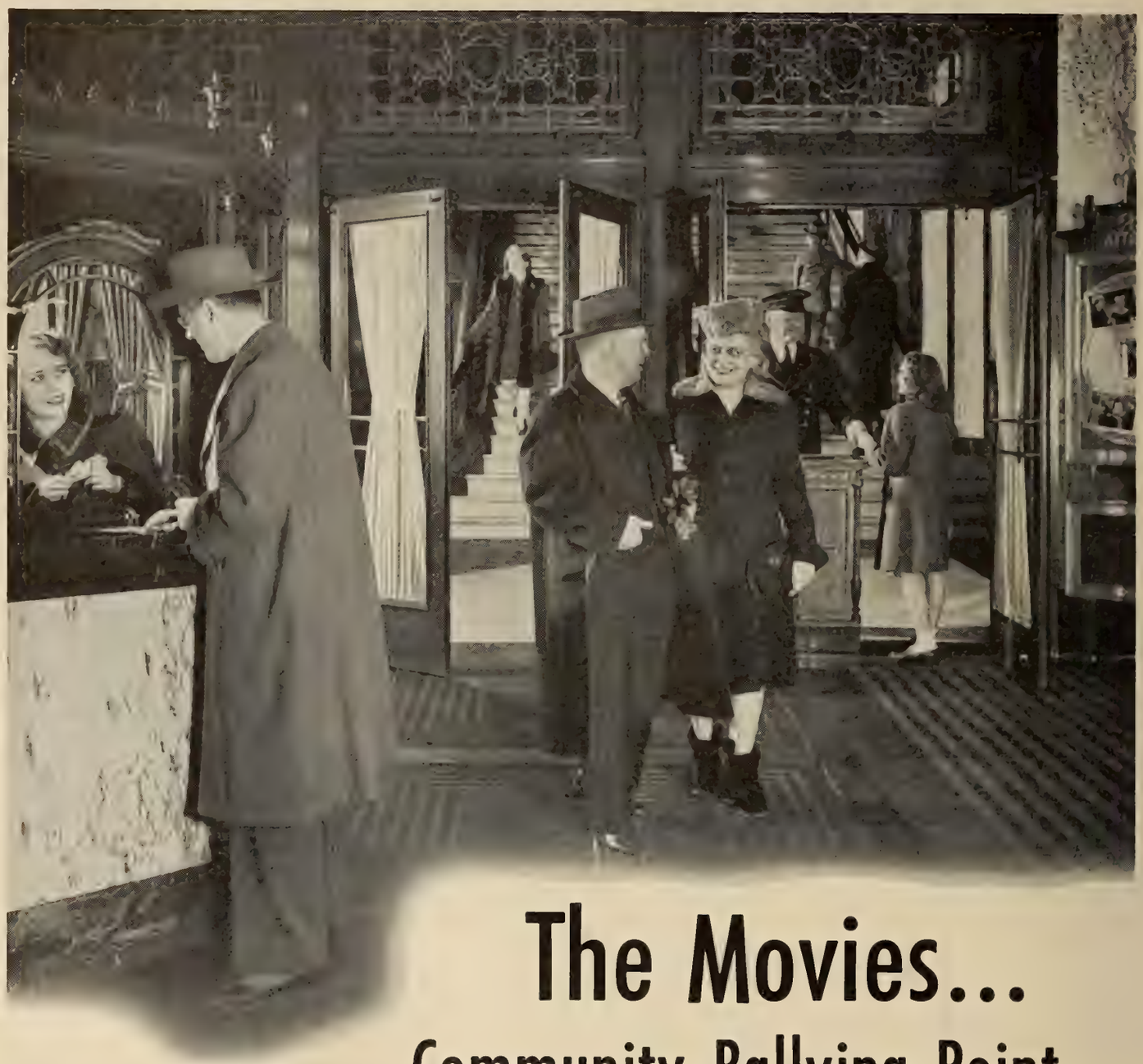
The corporation's actual distribution staff follows: McConville, president-general manager; Segal, treasurer-assistant general manager; Zeeman, assistant treasurer-manager of branch operations; David O'Malley, director of advertising-publicity, and Joseph Levy, manager of the traffic department.

At the same time Columbia disclosed the appointment of Sigwart Kusiel to the post of supervisor of Latin America and Trinidad, announced from Buenos Aires by McConville, now visiting there.

Kusiel will make his headquarters in Rio de Janeiro and continue temporarily as managing director of Brazil.

Van Straten to M-G-M

Jacques Van Straten, comptroller of radio station WHN, here, has been elected assistant treasurer of M-G-M International Films Corporation, subsidiary of Loew's.



The Movies...

Community Rallying Point

WHEN the town meets at the movies, War Bonds sell faster, blood donors hurry to the Red Cross, WAC and WAVE recruiting steps up the pace, the town blossoms out in new Victory Gardens, housewives and merchants band together to fight inflation . . .

Since the beginning of the war, thousands of exhibitors have contributed hundreds of hours of showing time. They and their staffs have worked day and night to make neighborhood and community movie audiences a vital factor in winning the war.

Yes, throughout the nation, one of the most effective rallying points has proved to be "the movies."

One of a series of advertisements by KODAK testifying to the achievements of the movies at war

Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y.

J. E. BRULATOUR, INC., *Distributors*

FORT LEE CHICAGO HOLLYWOOD

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 44 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1945 | TEN CENTS

Rank to Build 50 Postwar Canada Houses

To Cost Up to $150,000 Each; British Equipped

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, March 5.—Plans to build new theatres on 50 sites throughout Canada which were obtained by Odeon Theatres of Canada have been finalized here by J. Arthur Rank, who recently entered into association with the Dominion circuit.

Construction plans, to be pushed to completion within two years after wartime building restrictions are lifted, call for each of the houses to cost between $80,000 and $150,000, and to seat from 800 to 1,500.

Jay English, architect for Canadian Odeon, has just finished a month's in-

(*Continued on page* 10)

File March 10 On Deferment

WASHINGTON, March 5.—Members of the motion picture industry who plan to seek deferment from military service for key workers here were warned today by the War Production Board that lists of such employees and applications for deferment must be filed with WPB regional offices by March 10.

Since copies of the new Selective Service form No. 42-A are not expected to become available for some time, applications should be filed on forms

(*Continued on page* 10)

American Industry Seen in Italy Soon

Recent action of the Allied Commission in Italy, which has been the dominating influence in that country's life since the occupation, in relinquishing some of its power, with, consequently, accretion of influence to the civilian Government, is seen bringing appreciably closer the day when the Office of War Information and the Psychological Warfare Branch will return film operations to the American companies, a spokesman for

(*Continued on page* 10)

Curfew Cuts 10-15% from N. Y. Grosses

Broadway theatres, which expected to be hard hit by the midnight curfew since most operated past midnight on weekdays and two and three hours past on Saturday nights, felt the full impact of the curfew last Saturday night, first under the new closing rules. The situation is different here from in other parts of the country where, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday, there was no falling off in revenue for the first week.

Estimates of the loss in revenue for the week range from

(*Continued on page* 10)

E. J. Mannix Made AMPP President

HOLLYWOOD, March 5.—The Association of Motion Picture Producers tonight elected E. J. Mannix president, succeeding Y. Frank Freeman. B. B. Kahane was named first vice-president and Cliff Work second vice-president. Reelected were Fred W. Beetson, executive vice-president; and James S. Howie, secretary-treasurer. Joseph M. Schenck replaced Jason Joy as 20th Century-Fox representative on the board of directors.

Following the meeting, the directors of the Central Casting Corp., AMPP subsidiary, reelected Beetson president, Howard Philbrick vice-president, and Howie secretary-treasurer.

Esmond Resigns as Censor Director

Albany, March 5.—Irwin Esmond, director of the motion picture division, State Education Department, for the last 14 years, has retired, having reached the statutory age of 70. Assistant Commissioner Irwin Conroe was named acting director. The division reviews and licenses all films, except news reels, exhibited in New York State.

Esmond succeeded the first director, James Wingate, in 1932 when Wingate resigned to affiliate with the Hays organization. With the Education Department 30 years, Esmond was chief of the law division prior to his appointment as film division head.

Industry in OWI Set-up

HOLLYWOOD, March 5.—Robert Riskin, chief of the Office of War Information overseas film bureau, today revealed plans for an industry financed non-profit company to take over production and distribution of documentary and informational films under State Department guidance in order to carry forward and expand present OWI-type activity after the agency itself disbands.

Riskin, here for two weeks to enlist studio heads' support for the project, said the plan contemplates a million dollar investment to finance first year's operations based on pro-

(*Continued on page* 7)

Ohio, North Kentucky Theatres Are Closed by Great Floodwaters

Cincinnati, March 5.—The Ohio river floor, inundating some 30 square miles of the Greater Cincinnati area, including northern Kentucky, and causing evacuation of hundreds of families and scores of business establishments by Red Cross disaster units, has closed the Riverside Theatre, with a number of feet of water in the auditorium. The house is operated by James Wilson. Many highways throughout are blocked, and truck film deliveries have been suspended, it is reported by H. J. Wessel, owner of the Film Service Co., largest film carrier in this territory.

Equally serious flood conditions prevail in a number of Ohio and out-of-state situations traversed by the Ohio river and its tributaries.

Other theatres closed in Ohio include the Dodge, New Richmond; Lyric, New Boston; Ripley, Ripley; Lyric, Manchester, and Bendzue, Pomeroy. Closed in Kentucky are the Halls, Catlettsburg; Odeon, Augusta; Russell, Russell; Strand and Kentucky, Vanceburg, and Ren Roy, Greenup, as well as several houses at Ashland. In West Virginia, the Alpine at Point Pleasant and the Palace at Parkersburg have been victims of the flood.

Set Oct. 8th as Trial Date On New Decree

Court Reserves Decision On Clearance Injunction

Trial of the Government's action for a new consent decree calling for theatre divorcement will start in Federal District court here before Judge Henry W. Goddard on Oct. 8. Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the attorney general, told Judge Goddard at a hearing yesterday that trial of the issues would be necessary and the trial may take from one to two years.

A pre-trial conference, the first of several expected to be held, was set for March 26, at which time Government and industry counsel will meet informally in Judge Goddard's chambers to determine issues which may be agreed upon prior to trial. The Government's application for an injunction on clearance practices pre-

(*Continued on page* 7)

Byrnes' Order Is Attacked

WASHINGTON, March 5.—A Congressional investigation of the Byrnes' curfew, which he denounced as an invasion of the Constitution, was demanded today by Rep. Berkeley L. Bunker of Nevada.

"I have watched with increasing alarm as some of our 'power-drunk' officials have paraphrased and applied line by line, paragraph by paragraph, and chapter by chapter, many of the orders that have been promulgated by loathsome dictators against whom our

(*Continued on page* 6)

Exhibitors Again Mainstay in 7th

As in the past, exhibitors participating in the forthcoming Seventh War Bond drive, May 14-June 30, will carry the primary responsibility, passed on by the Treasury, of selling series "E" bonds, for which a quota has been set at $4,000,000,000, much more than individuals have ever been

(*Continued on page* 6)

Heavier Taxes Are Proposed for Ohio

COLUMBUS, O., March 5.—A bill to produce approximately $10,000,000 additional annual revenue in retail sales tax collections, without increasing the present impost, has been introduced into the upper Legislative branch by Senator James Matzenbaum, of Cleveland. The measure, which, if adopted, would be in the form of an amendment, would require vendors to maintain separate records of all sales and the tax collections thereon, and pay the actual amounts to the State Treasurer.

The current tax is more than three per cent, Senator Matzenbaum pointed out, citing that a one-cent tax on a 10-cent purchase amounts to 10 per cent tax, with larger amounts in proportion, whereas the vendor is required to file semi-annual reports and remit only on the equivalent of a straight three per cent, based on gross sales.

Theatres, likewise, pay a three per cent excise admission tax on gross receipts.

No Ontario 10% Tax On Tickets After All

TORONTO, March 5.—It appears that all of the talk about the restoration of the 10 per cent amusement tax by the Ontario Government was a mistake. At least that is what a deputation of the Ontario Federation of Labor was told when it waited on Premier George Drew and the Provincial Cabinet at the Parliament Building.

When the subject of reviving the amusement levy was brought up by the labor men with accompanying objections, the reply from the Government was there had been no intention of reviving the tax this year "to help pay for the new education subsidy."

At first thought this declaration was taken to mean there would be no amusement tax but the qualifying part of the statement regarding the $20,000,000 subsidy for schools in Ontario still has the theatre men guessing.

'Stars & Stripes' Book May Be Made a Film

HOLLYWOOD, March 5.—Steve Slesinger is en route to New York following preliminary negotiations for the sale of screen rights to "Stars and Stripes," book based on the official Army publication, which was launched first in World War I as a weekly and now appears as a daily with 11 editions ranging from London to Algiers.

Staff members, all of them Army men, are due in New York this week from overseas to do further work on the book.

Nebraska Tax Killed

OMAHA, March 5.—Nebraska will have no sales tax at least for another two years. The measure, LB 336, which would have provided a two per cent sales tax effective July 1, was killed in the Legislature's revenue committee at Lincoln.

Personal Mention

J. J. FITZGIBBONS, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., is a grandfather, his daughter having given birth to a girl in Memphis.

•

HAROLD L. GROVES, field director of the new Confidential Reports, Inc., who recently resigned from Copyright Protection Bureau after 16 years, will leave New York this week for a countrywide tour for the new organization.

•

HARRY STEVENS, of *Life* Magazine's advertising staff, has left New York for Hollywood.

•

JOAN ROGGEN, formerly with RKO, has joined the advertising department of Paramount.

•

FRED MEYERS, Universal Eastern sales manager, is in Washington this week.

•

EDWARD M. SCHNITZER, United Artists home office executive, will leave New York today for Toronto.

•

SAM LEFKOWITZ, United Artists New York manager, left yesterday for Philadelphia and Washington.

•

GEORGE BAGNALL, United Artists vice-president, arrived here yesterday from the Coast.

•

ROY L. BRAUER, Universal branch manager at Atlanta, is visiting in Tennessee.

•

CHARLES P. LESTER, National Screen Service Southern manager, is in Atlanta after a trip to Florida.

G. S. EYSSELL, president and managing director of Radio City Music Hall, will leave for the Coast Saturday to see new product.

•

LEON FROMKESS, PRC president, who left New York Sunday for the Coast, stopped off in Chicago for two days en route. He is expected back in New York next month.

•

HARRY R. LUBCKE, director of television for the Don Lee Broadcasting System, is in Washington and will visit New York before returning to the Coast.

•

ROBERT KNEPTON, Warner contract manager in New England, has left Hartford for a two-week vacation in Augusta, Ga.

•

LT. LOUIS C. INGRAM, JR., son of the Memphis M-G-M branch manager, has been awarded the Air Medal after eight missions over Japan.

•

AUSTIN C. KEOUGH, Paramount vice-president and general counsel, has returned to New York from California.

•

ERIC VAN DYCK, Loew 83rd Street manager, celebrated his 15th anniversary at that house March 4.

•

TED MARKOFF, manager of the Colchester Theatre, Colchester, Conn., is the father of a daughter.

•

HARRY SHAW, Loew's Poli New England manager, celebrated his 21st wedding anniversary this week.

Reisman Is 1st U. S. Film Man in Paris

Phil Reisman, RKO vice-president in charge of world distribution, has arrived in Paris from London, it was learned here yesterday, being the first ranking American commercial film executive to reach that city since 'D-Day'. For many months, U. S. foreign department executives have waited for French visas. Reisman is expected to confer in Paris with Marcel Gentel, RKO's French manager, and will inspect other branches and agencies there and in Belgium.

Since E. T. Carr of the J. Arthur Rank organization was permitted to cross the Channel in order to carry on commercial activity there, some industry quarters here felt that the American industry was being discriminated against, but, with the granting of a French visa to Reisman, letting down the bars to the Continent is expected, with only limiting factors those of transportation.

Name J. J. Chisholm ASN Ontario Head

TORONTO, March 5.—Appointment of J. J. Chisholm as district manager of Associated Screen News for Ontario is announced by B. E. Norrish, president and managing director. Chisholm is one of the company's senior producers.

Kalmenson to Hold Home Office Meet

Ben Kalmenson, general sales manager for Warners, will conduct a sales conference at the home office on Friday to outline distribution plans and policies for the remainder of the season.

Home office executives and district managers who will participate: Mort Blumenstock, Roy Haines, Jules Lapidus, Norman H. Moray, I. F. Dolid, Ed Hinchy, Stanley Hatch, Norman Ayers, Robert Smeltzer, Charles Rich, Harry A. Sneed, Hall Walsh, R. L. McCoy, Doak Roberts, Henry Herbel and Ralph Clark.

HaysReturns,Annual MPPDA Meet Mar. 26

Will H. Hays returned to New York yesterday from his regular Winter visit to Hollywood, and will continue with MPPDA executive staff members on the writing of his annual report to the board of directors and company members.

The annual board meeting is scheduled for March 26.

Astor Cinemas Dissolves

ALBANY, N. Y., March 5.—Astor Cinemas, Inc., of New York, has been dissolved. Attorney Harry G. Kosch, New York, recorded the notice.

NEW YORK THEATRES

2ND WEEK
The Greatest Lode of Thrills in Town!
"THE BIG BONANZA"
starring
RICHARD ARLEN
ROBERT LIVINGSTON
JANE FRAZEE
with
George "Gabby" Hayes
A Republic Picture
First N. Y. Showing
REPUBLIC THEATRE
B'way, Bet. 51st & 52nd Streets

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Showplace of the Nation • Rockefeller Center
"A SONG TO REMEMBER"
PAUL MUNI • MERLE OBERON
Introducing CORNEL WILDE
A Columbia Picture in TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
'MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS'
Judy GARLAND
Margaret O'BRIEN
IN PERSON
VINCENT LOPEZ and ORCH.

Paramount presents
Veronica LAKE Sonny TUFTS
Eddie Bracken Marjorie Reynolds
"BRING on the GIRLS"
In Person
The Ink Spots
Ella Fitzgerald
Buck & Bubbles
Cootie Williams and his Orchestra
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett
Raymond Massey
"Woman in the Window"
AN INTERNATIONAL PICTURE
—A RKO RELEASE

SAMUEL GOLDWYN Presents
BOB HOPE
'THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE'
in Technicolor
Continuous Doors open 8:30 A.M.
ASTOR Broadway & 45th Street
Popular Prices

WALT DISNEY'S
'The THREE CABALLEROS'
in TECHNICOLOR
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
NOW - - - Brandt's GLOBE

'Dillinger' Shown Friday

Monogram will give its first trade screening here of "John Dillinger" on Friday morning at the Normandie Theatre, following with a buffet luncheon at the Warwick Hotel, for exhibitors and the press.

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THE RED CROSS IS DEPENDING ON *YOU!*

MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY · 1945 · RED CROSS WAR FUND WEEK · MARCH 15 THRU 21

Our industry, too, has campaign ribbons it can proudly wear on its chest . . . Bond Drives . . . War Funds . . . March of Dimes . . . United Nations . . . Red Cross . . . yes, dozens of important missions on the home front—and more to come before this show is over. But we can look any G.I. Joe in the eye and say "we didn't let you down!" . . . and we'll be in there pitching 'til it's over, over there!

That's show business . . . the business we're all proud of . . . the business that organized itself for national defense before the first shot was fired . . . the business that knows how to do things and how to get things done.

Yes, it's our job to pass the ammunition! To get the dollars that help fight battles . . . to get the dollars that help bandage the wounds of war!

We all know that the true measure of showmanship is at the box office. We love records like we love the sound of laughter and applause in our theatres. We love record grosses! . . . and that goes for bond sales, collections . . . or anything else we're asked to do for our country.

We are now called upon to bring, into the RED CROSS WAR FUND BOX OFFICE, more money in a single week than ever before. It's going to test our showmanship . . . our ability to think of new ways to make the public dig deep and come across when we put up the house lights and pass the helmet.

The Red Cross needs your help . . . just as the boys in the foxholes and the whole suffering world need the Red Cross!

"The Red Cross is great because it reflects and is sustained by an idea that is lodged in the emotions and consciousness of all the people. That idea is the dignity of man, and the responsibility of all society toward its individual members."

Basil O'Connor

CHAIRMAN, THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS

"It is gratifying to learn that the Theatre Division, War Activities of the Motion Picture Industry, again plans to organize collections in the nation's motion picture theatres from March 15th through March 21st, 1945, for the benefit of the Red Cross War Fund.

"I am confident that the enthusiastic co-operation of the nation's exhibitors will materially help their local communities in attaining or exceeding their chapter goals."

[illegible]

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, 1945 RED CROSS WAR FUND

YOUR TRAILER
is a terrific heart punch.
It stars
INGRID BERGMAN
and was directed by
Jacques Tourneur.
You get it free.
Run it at every
performance.

COLLECTION AT EVERY SHOW

(Last minute checkup)

- ✓ THEATRE DECORATIONS
- ✓ SPECIAL TRAILER
- ✓ HOUSE LIGHTS UP
- ✓ COLLECTION CONTAINERS
- ✓ USE OF AD SLUGS
- ✓ OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION
- ✓ RADIO COOPERATION
- ✓ NEWSPAPER COOPERATION
- ✓ SPECIAL EVENTS
- ✓ CHILDREN'S MATINEE
- ✓ CONTAINER AT BOX OFFICE
- ✓ SCHOOL TIEUPS
- ✓ THEATRE READY . . . *Staff, Music, Slide, Speakers, Etc.*

"This is the eve of battle. For months your national and local committees have labored with the vast detail of organization and preparation for this drive. March 15th is D-Day and H-Hour for us. We have a great task to perform. As in every battle, success will depend on the initiative and fighting qualities of every man and woman in our industry. The RED CROSS is depending on YOU . . . I know you will not fail the RED CROSS."

N. Peter Rathvon

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY 1945 RED CROSS WAR FUND WEEK

This advertisement contributed by Columbia Pictures · Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer · Monogram Pictures · Paramount Pictures · Republic Pictures · RKO Radio Pictures · 20th Century-Fox · United Artists · Universal Pictures · Warner Bros.

Byrnes' Order Is Attacked

(Continued from page 1)

American boys and girls are fighting," Bunker declared.

"The latest innovation in the way of dictator-decrees is the so-called Byrnes curfew order, which to me plainly violates the very thing that our Constitution guaranteed to our people in the way of liberty."

Suggesting the possibility that the order was part of a "dry" drive, the Congressman asserted that if such was the case, after-midnight sales of liquor could have been prohibited without such broad interference, while if it was to save coal, it "is peculiar that it comes after Winter is virtually over."

"I, for one, am at a total loss to understand why the midnight closing order was postponed until Feb. 26, 1945—until now when victory is in sight, and when many of our factories have passed the peak of production demands," he commented.

"The operation of theatres, bowling alleys, restaurants and other amusement places has nothing to do with Army and Navy manpower. Most of the employers and employees of the (amusement) industry restricted by the Byrnes decree can make little other contribution to the war effort than to help maintain the morale of such people as war plant swing-shifters who seek such services, and to pay the income taxes that the Government imposes upon them.

"The American public is entitled to the facts behind such decrees as the Byrnes curfew."

Blue Overhauls

In a reorganization and expansion of the Blue Network's cooperative program department, Stanley Florsheim has been made director of the department, Ludwig Simmel, administrative assistant to Florsheim, George Scheier, publicity manager and Miss Lyndall Wilson, business development manager.

Exhibitors Again Mainstay in 7th

(Continued from page 1)

asked to buy of that class of war-securities.

At the request of Ted R. Gamble, director of the War Finance Division of the Treasury, a meeting was held at the weekend in Washington with representatives of the industry to discussing preliminary plans for the drive. Present were: Si Fabian, chairman of the theatres division of the War Activities Committee; Sam Pinanski, chairman of the Seventh War Loan for the industry, and Harry Brandt, chairman of the Sixth War Loan drive.

The Seventh War Loan will have a goal of $14,000,000,000.

In order to sell the unprecedented amount of bonds to individuals, the Treasury has set the longest period yet. The formal drive will extend seven weeks, compared with four weeks in the Sixth.

In addition to Gamble, the preliminary discussions were participated in by Edward Shugrue, director of motion pictures and special events for the War Finance Division, and Cornwall Jackson, deputy chief of the Office of War Information radio division, in charge of the West Coast.

$175,000 Theatre Fire in Nebraska

OMAHA, March 5.—Fire today destroyed the Egyptian Theatre at Scotts Bluff, with a loss estimated in excess of $175,000. The blaze, of unknown origin, started in the stage section and swept through the building, gutting it before the firemen could bring the fire into control. To protect firemen from electrocution as they played streams of water on the fire, power was shut off in the downtown section for 30 minutes.

The theatre, largest in Western Nebraska, is owned and operated by Midwest Gibraltar Enterprises, Inc.

M·G·M TRADE SHOW
NEW YORK • NEW JERSEY TERRITORIES ONLY
"WITHOUT LOVE"
SPENCER TRACY • KATHARINE HEPBURN
THURSDAY
MARCH 8, 1945 — 10 A.M.
RKO SCREEN ROOM
630 NINTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

No Standees Allowed In Mexican Theatres

Mexico City, March 5.—Exhibitors here have been warned by the municipal government that they must not, under penalty of severe fines, admit any patron when all seats are occupied.

Exhibitors here, it is understood, pay an average of $20,000 annually to the city government in fines for infractions.

Ralph Kohn, Former Para. Treasurer, 54

Ralph A. Kohn, former treasurer and a director of Paramount, who for some years was a leading figure in the industry, died after a long illness, at the home of his sister, Mrs. Beulah K. Goetz. He was 54 years old.

A graduate of the New York University Law School, Kohn joined Famous Players in 1913 as an assistant counsel and assistant secretary, and three years later became assistant secretary and assistant treasurer of the newly formed Paramount Famous Lasky Corp. In 1927 he became treasurer and in May, 1934, a director of Paramount Publix and its subsidiaries, remaining until his retirement from the organization. Since then he had been associated with the insurance firm of Keith, Cosgrave and Co.

Besides his sister, he leaves a son, Ensign Ralph Kohn Jr., and a daughter Marjorie Kohn. Kohn had been a member of the Army and Navy Club, City Athletic Club, and Fairview Country Club.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1:45 P.M., today, at Riverside Memorial Chapel, with burial at Mt. Hope Cemetery, N. Y.

U. S. Asks Help for Manpower Picture

Stressing that the manpower situation is still serious and requires further emphasis on the nation's screens, Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson has called on the industry, through the War Activities Committee, to give wide distribution to the latest War Department short, "The Enemy Strikes," one reel film produced by the Army Pictorial Service and scheduled for release on March 15. It highlights war production needs by scenes of our losses in the 'Battle of the Bulge'.

Producers and Actor Unions Meet Today

HOLLYWOOD, March 5.—Representatives of the Screen Actors Guild, the Screen Players Union and the producers will meet tomorrow at National Labor Relations Board headquarters with a view toward an agreement eliminating the jurisdictional dispute between the player organizations.

Mrs. McCullough Dies

Mrs. Isabell Perissi McCullough, mother of Mrs. Roger Di Pasca, secretary to Jack Cohn at Columbia Pictures, died Sunday at St. Clare's Hospital here. Services will be held tomorrow.

Mark Sandrich, 44, Dies in Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD, March 5.—Mark Rex Sandrich, 44, Paramount producer-director, died of a heart attack this morning at his home.

Sandrich was born in New York and educated at Columbia University. He started as a short story writer and playwright, going to the Coast in 1923. He became a property man at the old Century Studios, then becoming an assistant director of comedies, and, in 1926, a director, making two reelers for RKO, Century, Sunshine, Fox and Educational. In 1932 he made a three-reel band picture which won an Academy Award.

Sandrich's first feature was "Melody Cruise," for RKO. His first big feature was "The Gay Divorcee," with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, followed by "Top Hat." When he joined Paramount he directed "Man About Town," with Jack Benny and Dorothy Lamour, and was then made a producer-director. His last production was "Here Come the Waves," and for several months he had been preparing "Blue Skies," which will star Bing Crosby.

Sandrich was program chairman of the forthcoming Academy Awards ceremonies, and was working with talent organizations on the preparation of a "Cinemontage" presentation, which he had devised as an innovation. He is survived by his widow, Freda, his mother and his sons, Mark, Jr., 17, and Henry, 13.

Services will be held at the Wilshire Boulevard Temple at three o'clock tomorrow afternoon, with Dr. Edgar F. Magnin officiating.

The annual awards program of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, planned by Sandrich, will be executed at the Chinese Theatre March 15 as he outlined it, with Charles Brackett carrying on the work Sandrich started.

Hal Halperin Dies In Miami Hospital

MIAMI, Fla., March 5.—Hal Halperin, for many years head of the Chicago office of *Variety*, died here yesterday in a Miami hospital. He was 48 years old.

Halperin started 25 years ago as an advertising solicitor. He soon became an assistant to Jack Lait, then Mid-West representative of *Variety*, now editor of the *New York Mirror*, and succeeded him when he went to New York. Halperin was Mid-West representative of United Service Organizations Camp Shows. His wife and two daughters survive.

Funeral services will be held in Chicago Thursday at the Piser Funeral Parlor following the expected arrival of the remains from Miami tomorrow.

Set Raw Stock Meet

WASHINGTON, March 5.—Members of the Industry's WPB advisory committee will meet here with War Production Board officials, March 16, to discuss second quarter raw stock allocations.

Onie's Son Missing

CINCINNATI, March 5. — Milton Onie, 19-year old son of Bill Onie, Monogram franchise owner, here, is reported missing over Germany.

Distributors Hit for Percentage Buildups

Cincinnati, Mar. 5.—Decrying the distributors' alleged practice of 'usurping profits' of independent exhibitors through high percentages and "inflated" flat rentals, Willis Vance, chairman of the Indignant Exhibitors Forum committee of the Greater Cincinnati Independent Exhibitors Association, charges that the independent exhibitor "shudders and cringes" every time a new picture is built up, "for he knows that it will be a percentage designation, which means that it must be played at a loss, or have nothing to run." "The independent exhibitor," Vance says, "makes no profit, or sustains a loss on every percentage picture he plays."

Para. Atlanta Sales Meeting Thursday

Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, will head a group of Paramount home office executives, including Hugh Owen, New York and Southern division manager; Robert M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director, and Claude Lee, director of public relations, who will attend the company's regional sales meeting in Atlanta's Biltmore Hotel on Thursday and Friday. The group will leave New York tomorrow.

The Atlanta meeting will be the ninth and final one in a series of district sessions which Reagan has been conducting throughout the country.

Exhibitor Luncheon

Highlight of the second day will be a luncheon at which exhibitors will be the guests and at which John F. Kirby, Atlanta district manager, will be official host.

Representatives from the Atlanta, New Orleans and Charlotte branch offices will attend the meeting, including: from Atlanta, Grover C. Parsons, Clyde C. Goodson, Bert Turgeon, Harry Dashiell, Robert Tarwater, E. V. Atkinson, Gordon Bradley, Nelson Towler, Paul Cockrill; from New Orleans, E. B. Price, Edgar E. Shinn, Sidney Otis, Maurice Artigues, Irma Rogers; from Charlotte, Scott Lett, Bert Adams, William Holliday, W. W. Sharpe, Carlotta Porter. Vernon Gray, district advertising representative, will also attend.

Following the meeting, Owen will remain in Atlanta until Tuesday, March 13, to hold individual meetings with branch managers, salesmen and boookers.

Rathvon on the Air For Red Cross Drive

Tomorrow night at 11:30 E.W.T., N. Peter Rathvon, president of RKO, will appear on the "On Stage Everybody" Blue Network show on behalf of the Red Cross, in his capacity as national chairman for the industry's Red Cross War Fund Week, to be observed, March 15-21, in theatres. The broadcast will emanate from WJZ in New York.

New Decree Proposals To Trial Here Oct. 8

(*Continued from page* 1)

ceding trial was argued for several hours and Judge Goddard reserved decision, but indicated that he was not greatly impressed with the necessity for an immediate injunction. Briefs and counter-briefs on the subject also will be submitted by March 26.

Wright told the court that he would like trial to start in September, but since Judge Goddard would still be on vacation at that time, the date of Oct. 8 was agreed upon. Wright then stated he wanted interim relief in the form of a temporary injunction against "unreasonable clearance." Asked by the court what was meant by "unreasonable clearance," Wright replied: "clearance which is not reasonable."

Wright relied on 104 decisions of the Arbitration Appeal Board in making his application, stating that most of the complaints dealt with unreasonable clearance and that the decree provisions were not sufficiently broad to enable the board to give proper relief.

Former Judge Joseph Proskauer, counsel for Warners, told the court: "Mr. Wright is now seeking the most drastic relief known to the law, a temporary injunction. I shall show the court where in the name of fairness, decency and justice, such relief cannot be granted." He pointed out that the court was not being asked to decide if the decree worked well, but rather to toss it aside as of no consequence and to say that, after recognizing clearance as important for five years, that it is no longer.

No AAA Criticism

Whitney North Seymour, of counsel for Paramount, and John Caskey, of counsel for 20th Century-Fox, defended the decree in its present form, and pointed out that no change in the economic structure of the nation had occurred since the decree was entered to warrant a temporary injunction now. Caskey declared that in the more than 250,000 words in AAA decisions, not one containing a bit of criticism of clearance had been made.

Judge Goddard then asked Wright what he hoped to accomplish. The Government attorney said that the injunction would aid in broadening the powers of the AAA and enable it to deal out penalties.

John W. Davis, Loew's counsel, said he knew less of the Government's position at that point than before he came to court. He said the decree stipulates that clearance is necessary and that the Government was asking the defendants to accuse and prosecute themselves. He was joined again by Proskauer, who stated that if the AAA exhibits were accepted as evidence they could be used against the defendants at the trial and in each case the defendants wanted to take court testimony, if that procedure was to be followed.

Columbia Objects

Louis Frohlich, counsel for Columbia, stated that his company never had been a party to the proceedings or to arbitration and he saw no reason to accept the AAA material as evidence where Columbia was concerned. Edward C. Raftery, United Artists president and counsel, interposed the same objection, saying that his company had over 200,000 contracts involving clearance. Raftery also is counsel for Universal.

Judge Goddard observed that "My impression is that a decision of the Appeals Board is not proof of a violation of the Sherman Act. Clearance must exist. It cannot be applied like a yardstick in all cases but each case must be decided upon its individual merits. I think that perhaps some of the AAA provisions might be improved. I'm not ready to rule now, however, for if I do, I will rule against you, Mr. Wright."

Wright then stated that if the ruling went against the Government it would move to have all the arbitration decisions since the decree went into effect set aside.

Affidavits will be submitted by the companies today, and the Government will reply on March 24. Applications of Morris Ernst, of counsel for the Society of Independent Motion Picture Producers, and of Abram F. Myers and Jesse L. Stern, for the Conference of Independent Exhibitors, to file briefs as *amici curiae* were granted.

At the hearing, in addition to those named, were: J. Robert Rubin, J. Noble Braden, Earle Beatty, Ben Melniker, Richard Dwight, Fred Pride, Austin Keough, Gordon Youngman, David Palfreyman, Adolph Schimel, R. W. Perkins, Louis Phillips, Leopold Friedman and Sidney Schreiber.

Powell, Pressburger Due Here March 17

Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, English writing-producing team who are due in New York the week end of March 17, are coming not only to attend the premiere at the Gotham Theatre of "Colonel Blimp," but also to begin work on their next picture, "A Matter of Life and Death," it was disclosed here yesterday by Arthur W. Kelly, president of Eagle-Lion Films, Inc.

Powell and Pressburger expect to complete the film treatment of "Life and Death" while in the U. S. but first they will make a pre-shooting research tour through Washington, Boston and Philadelphia for material. The picture is laid in the United

Drumm with Folliard On Ned Depinet Drive

MEMPHIS, March 5.—Frank L. Drumm, assistant to RKO Eastern division sales manager Nat Levy, has joined the RKO 'Ned Depinet Drive' squad here as the tour rounds into the home stretch. Teaming up with drive captain Robert Folliard and short subject sales manager Harry Michalson, the squad today conferred with the sales staff at the local exchange.

Following today's meeting here, Folliard, Michalson and Drumm, will leave for New Orleans for meetings with Southeastern district manager Dave Prince and branch manager J. R. Lamantia. The group will reach New York on March 21.

Independents File In Arthur Action

St. Louis, March 5.—The Apollo and Princess here have filed an intervening motion in the case of Harry Arthur, Jr., and his St. Louis Amusement Co. against the Government's consent decree, in which the theatres charge that a conspiracy exists between the Government and the distributors to give Fanchon and Marco a monopoly on first-run pictures.

This motion is expected to be heard with the others pending when Federal Judge Richard M. Duncan returns from Washington about March 15.

Industry in OWI Set-up

(*Continued from page* 1)

duction and distribution of 24 shorts for worldwide exhibition in 27 languages. Funds would come primarily from the industry but some financing might be advanced by Governmental agencies which have appropriations for such uses.

Riskin said he had discussed the set-up privately with several New York company heads. It provides that producers, directors and writers would contribute their services and work under a leading documentary producer not yet selected, plus a staff of men who have learned documentary technique during the war, some of whom are still in the armed services. Over these would be a policy board including a State Department representative who would outline the Government's views with respect to subjects undertaken.

Distribution Plans

On the distribution side films would be handled in the same manner as the present OWI output with key exchanges in various countries in charge of the physical handling and all company staffs collaborating. Both 16mm and 35mm prints would be provided as presently with non-theatrical exhibition predominant, but with theatrical channelling of those subjects considered suitable for commercial purposes. Riskin expressed confidence the company could become self-sustaining ultimately.

Principal objective, Riskin said, is to spread knowledge of the American way of life and promote better understanding between nations. Under the directive which created OWI, that agency will be dismantled six months after war ends. Riskin said the non-profit company would begin operations at any time without conflicting with the OWI.

Wilder Offer

Queried on reports William Wilder has been offered a post in charge of American films in Germany after victory, Riskin said negotiations are in progress but not yet discussable. He indicated, however, that such a post would cover only that portion of Germany occupied by Americans.

Riskin said the State Department fully approves the plan

BIGGEST SHOW IN TOWN

Everywhere

WALT DISN

MIRACLE MUSIC

featuring PANCH

COLLECT AT EVERY SHOW!
RED CROSS WEEK — MARCH 15-21

Three cheers for those "three happy chappies!" . . . now hitting sensational box-office success all over the nation — NEW YORK - BOSTON - WASHINGTON - ROCHESTER - CINCINNATI - DENVER - NEW ORLEANS - HARRISBURG - BALTIMORE - RICHMOND - NORFOLK - BUFFALO - OMAHA - MILWAUKEE - BIRMINGHAM - SALT LAKE CITY - HARTFORD - NEWARK - OKLAHOMA CITY — with dozens more important first runs readying for the big box-office doings week by week!

The Three Caballeros

IN TECHNICOLOR

CARIOCA • DONALD DUCK and in the FLESH . . . AURORA MIRANDA • DORA LUZ • CARMEN MOLINA

RELEASED THROUGH RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.

American Industry Seen in Italy Soon

(Continued from page 1)

the OWI overseas film bureau told MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

"There is no doubt that the act of the Commission brings closer liquidation of the military operation of films in Italy," he said. For some time now, it is understood, the OWI has been anxious to return Italian film operations as done in France, to the companies. But the fact that Italy has continued to be a military front, although a subsidiary one, and with transportation remaining an acute problem, OWI has had to control.

A company spokesman said it is hoped that by the Summer commercial operations will be resumed in Italy. It is all contingent, he pointed out, on when the Germans pull out of Italy, as they have long been expected to do.

Italy has been experiencing unprecedented theatre business, with the OWI holding in escrow considerable sums amassed by the exhibition of the 40 Hollywood features which the industry had handed over to the OWI. How much money will be forthcoming to the companies cannot be determined until the lira is permanently stabilized.

Curfew Effect Slight In Los Angeles Area

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 5.—After a week's compliance with the midnight curfew, the consensus of Los Angeles showmen is that the effect on grosses is slight. Maximum loss from the elimination of the Saturday owl show was $200.

Fox West Coast's 17 all-night theatres on the Coast were affected in an undetermined degree, but earlier openings partially offset the loss. The Paramount management foresaw a complication in the forthcoming "For Whom the Bell Tolls" engagement, which will have to move forward its starting hour.

Sherrill Corwin, operating the Los Angeles and Orpheum Theatres, was an exception to the rule, estimating that his first week's total was off $5000. All are confident the public will adjust its attendance habits to the curfew quickly.

'Dry' Sets New Record

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., March 5.—"Keep Your Powder Dry," played four days at the Tivoli here, and then moved over to the State for the next three, the first time in five years an M-G-M film has played both theatres. Film's combined gross was in excess of $10,000, M-G-M asserts, a record for this city.

MITCHELL MAY, Jr.
CO., INC.
INSURANCE
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Specializing
in requirements of the
Motion Picture Industry
75 Maiden Lane, New York
510 W. 6th St., Los Angeles

Curfew Cuts 10-15% from Grosses at N. Y. Theatres

(Continued from page 1)

10 to 15 per cent with Saturday business being off as much as 20 per cent in the evening.

While some theatres were forced to forego only midnight shows Saturday night and trim a few minutes from daily schedules, other houses had to drop between seven and ten showings of films throughout the week.

However, despite the curfew and its attendant loss of revenue, receipts drawn by new arrivals are of outstanding proportions. New films include "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," at the Roxy; "The Picture of Dorian Gray," at the Capitol; "Hotel Berlin," Strand, and "Bring on the Girls," Paramount.

"A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," combined with a stage show featuring Victor Borge and Joan Edwards, has been drawing well at the Roxy since it opened last Wednesday with an outstanding $80,000 recorded for its first five days and a heavy $107,000 expected for the week. The loss of revenue from the curfew at the Roxy will not be too great since the theatre previously closed a few minutes past midnight on weekdays and only lost a midnight show on Saturday night and part of a performance on Sunday.

'Picture' Is Smash

A smash $82,000 is expected for the first week of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" and a stage bill featuring Lena Horne, Xavier Cugat and Robert Walker, at the Capitol. Estimates place the loss in Saturday revenue at $4,000 at the Capitol and over 10 per cent on the week since final shows are now starting at 9 P. M. here and eight showings of the film weekly have been cut to conform with the new regulations.

The Paramount expects a good $80,000 for the first week of "Bring on the Girls" and a stage show featuring The Ink Spots, Ella Fitzgerald, Buck and Bubbles and 'Cootie' Williams and his orchestra. During the week, the Paramount has been forced to cut seven showings of its film and two stage shows; it is estimated that the theatre could have done an additional $10,000 on the week were it not for the curfew.

The Strand, where "Hotel Berlin," combined with a show featuring Carmen Cavallero and band opened strong, last Friday, is meeting with conditions similar to those at the Paramount. However, a shorter show brought only a 10 per cent drop in Saturday business and with $29,600 recorded for the first three days, a smart $60,000 is expected for the first week. Estimates place the loss of revenue here due to the curfew at 12 to 15 per cent.

Radio City Music Hall lost at least 20 per cent of its customary revenue on Saturday between the rain in the early part of the day and the failure of customers to appear after 9 P. M. A spokesman pointed out that customarily, business is very heavy between 9 and 10 P.M. Saturdays but with the curfew, few customers arrived for the final show. The theatre has cut its customary Saturday midnight show as well as one showing of the feature on Sundays, opening with its stage show Sunday mornings. "A Song to Remember" is expected to conclude a sixth and final week tomorrow with a satisfactory $97,000 on the basis of $61,000 recorded in the first four days. About $5,000 was lost on the week. "Tonight and Every Night" will open at the Music Hall Thursday.

Of the holdovers, "The Princess and the Pirate," at the Astor, was hit hardest with an estimated 20 per cent of the week's revenue lost by the necessity of dropping about eight showings of the film. Fourth week's gross is expected to reach $28,000 on the basis of $18,000 recorded for the first three days. Estimated loss due to the Saturday night curfew here is placed at $2,500, with two complete showings dropped.

Theatres like the Globe, Gotham, Victoria and Criterion which were expected to be hit hardest because of their grind operations, report about a 10 per cent drop in revenue with about 10 shows a week each being cut. "The Three Caballeros" is headed for a sturdy $22,000 for its fifth week at the Globe. A strong $8,800 is expected for the ninth week of "Mr. Emmanuel" at the Gotham. "The Fighting Lady" will draw about $15,700 for a seventh week at the Victoria, which is still big. Third and final week of "Here Come the Co-Eds," at the Criterion, will gross a satisfactory $23,000 following a second week's $26,500; "Keep Your Powder Dry" will open at the Criterion on Saturday.

'Woman' Still Profitable

"The Woman in the Window" will complete a sixth and final week at the Palace tomorrow night with a profitable $21,000 and "Murder, My Sweet" will open there Thursday. The film could probably have remained longer but RKO has it set to open Thursday at its New York theatres. "The Keys of the Kindom" will bring over $30,000 for a tenth and final week, plus an extra day, at the Rivoli, concluding a profitable run. "The Song of Bernadette" will return to Broadway at the Rivoli for a two-week engagement at popular prices starting Saturday. "Roughly Speaking" is expected to bring $17,500 in a fifth week at the Hollywood, which is satisfactory. "The Corn Is Green" is expected to follow, but no date has been set.

A mild $6,000 is expected for "Crime Doctor's Courage" at the Rialto which has dropped almost 18 shows weekly under curfew regulations. "Nothing but Trouble" will open at the Rialto Friday. A poor $2,500 is expected for the second and final week of "The Big Bonanza" at the Republic; and "Utah" will open there Saturday.

Advance 'Bernadette'

The Rivoli, here, has advanced the date of the return engagement, at popular prices, of "The Song of Bernadette" to March 10 from March 14.

Opera to Compete

CINCINNATI, March 5.—Another season of Summer opera, which has, heretofore, provided considerable theatre competition, is planned for Zoological Gardens here.

WMC Delays Survey Of Industry Labor

CHICAGO, March 5.—The War Manpower Commission in this region will not survey the numerical strength of film exchange and theatre circuit staffs until the results of the 10 per cent staff reduction of non-essential industries becomes known, William H. Spencer, regional WMC director, reports. The reduction order, in effect in full by March 15, not only takes in Chicago, but most labor areas in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin.

Most film exchanges here are meeting the order by dismissing one or two shipping room employees. Theatre circuits are not greatly affected, since many employees now are women and they are eliminated from this edict. 'Discharged' employees are required to report to the U. S. Employment Service for defense jobs and, when placed, the USES notifies the non-essential employer. As soon as this region is no longer a critical labor area, the original employers are required to re-hire the dismissed employees.

Must File March 10 For 'Key' Workers

(Continued from page 1)

now in the hands of local draft boards.

Since the certification of essential employees for deferment is in the hands of regional offices, WPB officials here said today they did not know what, if any, theatre employees would be considered key men, but suggested the possibility that projectionists might be so classified, but there appeared to be little probability that house managers, assistant managers or "front" employees would be given preferential status.

Rank to Construct 50 Theatres in Canada

(Continued from page 1)

spection tour of British theatres and a series of detailed conferences with Rank. He will now return to Canada to supervise drawing up contracts for the new houses. Everywhere possible, the buildings will conform to the design standardized here.

All equipment, furnishings and draperies will be made in England by G.B.-Kalee, Ltd., Rank's equipment organization. This is the most advanced step to date in the direction of British postwar exports and indicates that there is a governmental plan behind Rank's sending emissaries on worldwide tours to acquire theatre sites.

Rohrs to Cleveland

CLEVELAND, March 5.—Fred Rohrs, PRC Central district manager, will move his headquarters from St. Louis to here. The district includes St. Louis, Detroit, Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Cleveland.

Bonded Film Storage Corp.
LOWEST RATES
TWICE-A-DAY DELIVERY SERVICE
SAFETY-SECURITY
1600 BROADWAY N.Y.C.
Circle 6-0081-2-3-4
STORAGE & C. A. PROJECTION ROOM FILM EXCHANGE DISTRIBUTION SERVICE

THINK OF IT THIS WAY!

YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS MORE COPPER FOR AMMUNITION.

In the photograph are drops of copper from projector carbons, collected from the bottom of a lamp housing. Such collections help make possible .50 caliber machine gun cartridges . . . which can down a Jap Zero, or save a Superfortress for another bomb run across Tokyo.

When you *think of it this way* you realize the importance of collecting the copper from your projector lamps and stripping copper from old carbon stubs . . . and turning it all back into war production channels.

This you can do, through your local salvage committees or through your distributor.

Meanwhile, conserve still more copper by operating your "National" projector carbons under the recommended conditions for maximum efficiency.

NATIONAL CARBON COMPANY, INC.

Unit of Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation

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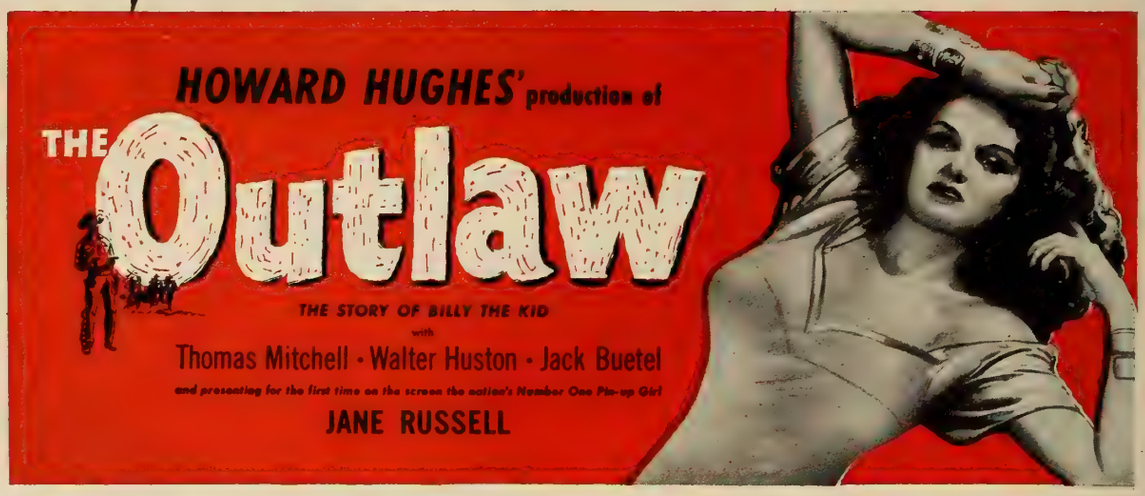

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First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 45 NEW YORK, U.S.A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1945 TEN CENTS

N. Y. Building Code 95% Set On New Houses

Committee Sets Drive-In, Open-Air Theatre Rules

Ninety-five per cent of the provisions of the new building code for new theatres and other public structures in New York State, excluding New York City, have now been set by the State Labor Department's advisory committee, a spokesman for the group told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here yesterday.

The city is also setting requirements for open-air places of entertainment including drive-in theatres and open-air houses. Additional require-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Consolidated Nets $561,719

Consolidated Film Industries, Inc., had sales totaling $11,137,124, on which a net profit of $561,719 was realized, in its last fiscal year, ended on Dec. 31, 1944, Herbert J. Yates, president, reported yesterday; this compares with sales of $9,465,338 in 1943, when the company netted $578,339. Consolidated owns two-thirds of Setay Co., which, in turn, owns Republic Pictures, and this interest figures into Consolidated earnings.

Herbert J. Yates

Costs of operations last year totaled

(*Continued on page* 8)

Pollock Heads Biow Film Department

Louis Pollock, formerly director of advertising and publicity for United Artists, has been named head of the new motion picture department of Biow Co., it was announced here yesterday by Milton Biow, president of the agency. While Pollock will have

(*Continued on page* 8)

Curfew Cuts Chi's 'Sneak' Previews

Chicago, March 6.—Previews here have been eliminated for the duration of the midnight curfew in local theatres where they were shown in addition to regular programs. B. and K.'s Chicago Theatre has employed the preview feature frequently, not only to test audience reaction, but also to boost the final night's receipts of a picture which has been on view for two to four weeks. The circuit of neighborhood houses operated by Jack Kirsch, Allied of Illinois president, also used previews.

Kirsch Asks Better Distributor Deals For Independents

By SAM HONIGBERG

CHICAGO, March 6.—Jack Kirsch, president of Allied of Illinois, told members of his organization in convention at the Blackstone Hotel, here, today, that "The independent exhibitor must secure more cooperation from some of the major distributors if he is to remain in business." He pointed out that the independent has not 'cashed-in' on the war-prosperity wave, placed as he is on the end of the line when a picture has lost most of its drawing power."

Kirsch said, "The bright first-run

(*Continued on page* 8)

Britain Short 100 Million Feet of Stock

LONDON, March 6.—Britain's commercial and governmental demands for raw stock exceeds the available supply by 100,000,000 feet, Hugh Dalton, president of the Board of Trade, told the House of Commons today, explaining that the board is, nevertheless, still undecided on whether a further cut in the distributors' quotas will be necessary.

Mentioning the increased demands of the armed services and other government departments, as well as "essential exports," Dalton said board officials are anxious that the flow of entertainment films to the forces shall not be reduced.

Unofficially, however, it was said that the BOT has been cutting the

(*Continued on page* 3)

See Some Delay on Clearance Ruling

WASHINGTON, March 6.—Rulings by the New York Federal District court on the admissability of Arbitration Appeal Board decisions as evidence in the Department of Justice action to eliminate clearance between theatres charging the same admission price, and on the Department's application for an injunction against such

(*Continued on page* 3)

WPB to Hear Independents' Film Demands

Distributors Need More Stock to Release Films

Problems of raw stock quotas for independent producers releasing through national distributors are increasing the already numerous complications involving the latters' raw stock supplies, it is learned here. A thorough airing of the problem and

Hollywood, March 6.—Mary Pickford today received telegraphed assurance from Stanley B. Adams of the WPB that she would receive the necessary raw stock for production and release prints for "One Touch of Venus." Her application was based on her long production record. The case is the first of its kind.

and a possible solution is expected to develop at the March 16 meeting in Washington between the industry's advisory committee and representatives of the War Production Boards' Consumers' Durable Goods Division.

Illustrative of these problems are

(*Continued on page* 3)

Flood Worse, More Close, Spreads to Indiana Areas

CINCINNATI, March 6.—The Greater Cincinnati area and other sections hereabouts and in Northern Kentucky, already dangerously flooded, face further floodwater damage with the Ohio River rising about half-a-foot an hour due to incessant rains. At Louisville, the Ohio was more than 14 feet above flood stage and was rising steadily.

Many more theatres have been closed, adding to the several already shut down, and in all probability the number will increase. Typical of several are the Americus, a unit of Associated Theatres, and the Broadway, into each of which several feet of water have poured. Crews worked all night removing seats and furnishings.

Scores of theatres closed are scattered through Southern Ohio and parts of Kentucky, West Virginia and Indiana, a few of them including—besides those mentioned—Riverside, here, Dodge, New Richmond; Lyric, New Boston; Ripley, Ripley; Lyric, Manchester, and Bendzue, Pomeroy, all in Ohio; in Kentucky, the Halls, Catlettsburg; Odeon, Augusta; Russell, Strand and Kentucky, Vanceburg, and Ren Roy, Greenup, as well as several houses at Ashland; in West Virginia, the Alpine at Point Pleasant and the Palace at Parkersburg are among those which have been victims of the flood.

Tom Connors In Bond Post

Samuel Pinanski, national chairman of the Seventh War Loan for the film industry, yesterday disclosed here that Tom J. Connors, vice-president of 20th Century-Fox in charge of world-wide sales, has offered to assume the duties of national distributor chairman of the Seventh drive during the illness of Gradwell L. Sears, vice-president of United Artists in charge of distribution.

Tom Connors

Spyros Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox,

(*Continued on page* 3)

Personal Mention

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, Loew's vice-president and general sales manager, will return to New York from the Coast March 15.

•

JAY EISENBERG and MIKE SIMONS, Loew attorney and editor of the company house organ, respectively, returned to New York yesterday from New Haven.

•

JOHN FLINN, JR., of Warners publicity staff for five years, will be inducted into the Army on the Coast next Tuesday.

•

DON MCELWAINE, PRC director of advertising-publicity, will entrain from Hollywood March 14 for Boston and New York on business.

•

JOE FARROW, M-G-M Philadelphia office manager, is recuperating from an operation at the Presbyterian Hospital there.

•

IRVING BLUMBERG, Warner Philadelphia circuit advertising and promotion director, is back at work after an operation.

•

DUKE HICKEY, MPPDA public relations committee field representative, will arrive in Miami today from Pittsburgh.

•

JOHN R. WOOD, JR., March of Time sales manager, will return to New York today from Washington.

•

ALBERT SINDLINGER, Audience Research executive vice-president, is en route to the Coast from New York.

•

ALLEN BENN, operator of the Belmont, Philadelphia, has gone to Mt. Clements, Michigan, for a vacation.

•

BILL BETHEL, Republic Philadelphia salesman, underwent an operation in Philadelphia last week.

•

SAMUEL MARX, M-G-M producer, will arrive in New York today from the Coast.

•

EDGAR MOSS, 20th-Fox Philadelphia manager, has returned there from Arizona.

De Rochemont on Air

March of Time producer Richard de Rochemont will appear on the Town Hall program, here, tomorrow night, over the Blue Network, on the subject: "Can France Regain Her Place As a World Power?" Making up the discussion group with de Rochemont will be Lewis Gannett, Louis Fischer, and Leon Henderson.

Du Mont to Talk

Dr. Allen B. Du Mont, head of the Du Mont Laboratories and former president of the Television Broadcasters Association, will address a joint meeting of the Institute of Radio Engineers and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in Buffalo tomorrow.

Low Coal Priority For Film Houses

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The War Production Board here tonight issued a priority list to be employed next Winter, in case of need, to spread available coal supplies among essential war and civilian consumers.

No specific mention of theatres was made in the list, but a spokesman for the WPB said they would go into the very lowest of seven categories.

While theatres using coal were tonight faced with the possibility of an enforced shutdown in the event of an emergency such as was twice experienced last month by houses in seven states which heated with natural gas, gas consumers of the Middle West now are expected to be protected against a recurrence of that situation next Winter by three new large gas pipe line.

Deitch Back at Para. As Theatre Official

Joseph Deitch, film buyer and booker for Tri-States Theatres, Des Moines, has joined Paramount as an executive in the theatre department, Leonard H. Goldenson, vice-president in charge of theatre operations, disclosed here yesterday. He will start his new duties on April 1.

This marks Deitch's return to the Paramount home office after many years. He became associated with Paramount-Publix in New York some 20 years ago, the last eight years of which he was film buyer. In 1932 he was named film buyer for Tri-States.

Mahoney Succeeds Fain at Interstate

BOSTON, March 6.—Interstate Theatre Corp. announces the resignation of M. Edgar Fain as general manager, effective April 1. Fain is leaving the business to become president of Tower Iron Works, Providence.

Interstate's new general manager will be James F. Mahoney, for the past 17 years district manager for Interstate's Connecticut and Western Massachusetts houses.

Dewey Will Sign Ives Bill Next Monday

ALBANY, March 6.—The Ives-Quinn Anti-Discrimination Bill, passed 49-6 in the State Senate last night, will be signed by Governor Thomas E. Dewey next Monday in the presence of the 23 members of the temporary commission that recommended the measure's enactment, it was announced here today.

By the terms of the bill, a five-man commission will be appointed to eliminate discrimination in employment because of race, creed, color or national origin.

Soldiers to Visit WE

Seven American soldiers from Bastogne will visit local plants of the Western Electric Co. today to tell employes of the Army's need for more equipment.

All Academy Awards On Air Nationally

HOLLYWOOD, March 6.—Marking the first time that any network has broadcast the presentation of every award, WJZ, here, and the Blue network on Friday, March 16, will air the entire proceedings attending the annual awards given by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The program, which will originate in Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, will be heard from 12:30 a.m., to 1:30 a.m., EWT.

The program is being arranged so that the presentation of every award will be made within the one-hour broadcast; previously, only that portion of the program in which the major awards were presented was brought to radio listeners. Another innovation will be the inclusion on the program of outstanding sequences in the pictures from which nominations have been made. These excerpts will be shown on the Grauman screen with sound tracks being heard on the broadcast.

New PRC Exchanges Announced in April

CHICAGO, March 6.—Leon Fromkess, PRC president, here today on his way to Hollywood, disclosed to MOTION PICTURE DAILY that additional purchases of exchanges will be announced at the next PRC board meeting in New York, early in April, if new purchases will have been made by that time. The company now owns eight exchanges.

Fromkess said that no plans for the acquisition of additional British films will be made until the raw stock quota for a second quarter is made known.

Warner Continues As AMPP Director

HOLLYWOOD, March 6.—Reelection of Harry M. Warner to the board of directors of the Association of M. P. Producers at the annual meeting of the organization here on Monday was explained today as "a matter of course," without special significance. Warner did not attend the meeting.

Warner Bros. served notice of intention to resign from the AMPP last December, immediately following its notice of resignation from the MPPDA in New York. The resignation is scheduled to become effective May 30.

Walker Here Monday

Thomas L. Walker, secretary of Edward Small Productions, is scheduled to arrive in New York from the Coast on Monday. He will attend meetings with the film industry's WPB Advisory Committee which will meet in Washington on the 16th on raw stock allocations.

Blue Web Video Show

The Blue Network was host to representatives of the press and others here last night at a reception at the Park Lane Hotel prior to the telecasting of the Blue's 'Quiz Kids' program over DuMont's station WABD telecaster.

'Battle of Iwo' in Theatres Tomorrow

"The Battle of Iwo," new full newsreel release by all five companies which the nation's theatres will start showing tomorrow, and which was screened here yesterday for the press, contains some of the most powerful and dramatic footage to come out of this war.

The film runs 10 minutes, and shows both landing preparations and actual battles. Death through rifle and machine gun fire, mortar and artillery bombardment, hand grenades and liquid fire, run riot through the tempestuous landing and establishment of beachheads.

Rushed by Plane

So important did the Navy consider this footage in the fight against complacency in this country, that a special plane rushed the film to the U. S. from an embattled carrier, and the Navy authorized an additional 250 feet of film per print for its showings, donating the extra film to the five newsreel companies, which are limited to 700 feet on ordinary releases.

Wide cooperation between the Navy and the newsreel companies made possible the simultaneous booking of the earlier fighting on the island, while the entire Iwo issue is not yet settled. Photographers of the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard made the battle scenes, and several paid for it with their lives. The entire filming was done under the supervision of Lt. Commander William Park, former newsreel editor of Pathe and Paramount.

The film shows the horrors of war to the greatest extent yet of any released, and it should more than fulfill its purpose of arousing fighting spirits of those back home.—E. S.

U. S. Forces Combine Pacific Footage

First film produced jointly by the Armed Forces for public showings will be released on March 22 by the War Activities Committee. Titled "Fury in the Pacific," the 20-minute subject is the record of an amphibious assault, typifying the fury of war in the Pacific. Army Pictorial Service, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Army Air Forces combined their material to reproduce the problems of a typical combined action in the Pacific.

The film contains new footage, including closeups of Japs in combat, and closeups of U. S. troops photographed so close to the enemy that nine combat cameramen were hit taking the film.

"Fury in the Pacific" is an Office of War Information release, to be distributed by Warner Brothers for the WAC.

John Scully, Jr. Freed

Lt. John Scully, Jr., son of John Scully, Universal's New England district manager, and nephew of William Scully, was recently released from a German prison camp following a Russian drive.

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British Raw Stock Off 100 Million Ft.

(Continued from page 1)

service demands heavily, pointing out that, with commercial users economizing in every way possible, it is imperative that the government do likewise. The situation has grown worse lately because of a breakdown of the Gavaert raw stock plant at Antwerp, Belgium.

Should BOT's present stern economy warnings fail to solve the problem, it is likely that the distributors' allocations will be "revolutionized" by retaining the 1944 quotas instead of going back to the more liberal 1942 quotas, as has been planned. In addition, last year's allocations would be further cut by five per cent, and a 10 per cent cut is even possible, though officials hope the latter extreme will not be necessary.

BOT also envisions an order extending the life of each film print by restricting the number of daily showings. It is hoped, nevertheless, that this order can be obviated by a joint distributor-exhibitor arrangement to achieve the same end.

The proposed orders, if issued, would be for a three-month period, officials believing that the end of war in Europe will considerably reduce aero and X-ray raw stock demands.

WPB Awaits Formal Eagle-Lion Request

WASHINGTON, March 6.—War Production Board officials as yet have received no formal request for an allocation of raw stock for Eagle-Lion Films, but admitted that they were aware that moves were being made in that direction, although it had not developed whether the J. Arthur Rank organization would make its application direct or through United Artists.

It was also reported that Arthur Kelly, Rank's American representative, had petitioned the British Embassy in Washington to intercede with the board, but this was not corroborated. No information was available as to the footage of raw stock which Eagle-Lion would feel it required.

Producers, Unions in Conference Deadlock

HOLLYWOOD, March 6.—Although a conference here today before the National Labor Relations Board resulted in "some progress toward a settlement" of the Screen Actors Guild-Screen Players Union jurisdictional dispute, according to an NLRB spokesman, the SPU telegraphed the NLRB in Washington claiming the SAG had declined to compromise and asking immediate action on the producers' petition for clarification of SPU's certification as the bargaining agent for extras.

An SAG spokesman told MOTION PICTURE DAILY his union had offered to work out an agreement conditional upon the modification of the certification.

Marion Stone Dies

Marion Stone, 68, died late last week following an illness of several years. Services were conducted at Riverside Chapel and interment was at Beth Judea Cemetery. From 1922 until 1935, Mrs. Stone had carried on the work of the Stone Film Library.

WPB Will Hear Raw Stock Demands of Independents

(Continued from page 1)

those of RKO and United Artists. RKO is understood to require additional raw stock to complete its releasing commitments with International Pictures for four pictures and to undertake a continuation of this releasing deal for additional pictures. Three of the pictures in the original deal have been released with the fourth, "It's a Pleasure," now being lined up. International has already completed films beyond the original four but has not yet set any releasing deal for them.

United Artists' problems are equally acute and have been highlighted by the demands of J. Arthur Rank for raw stock to enable UA to release his films in this country. Other UA producers are similarly affected since under the present allocation system U. A., itself, as a distributor, has no raw stock quota of its own from which it could supplement the quotas of its producers.

Both UA and RKO are understood to be seeking additional stock to meet emergency demands. However, the amount of stock available to the industry is said to be fixed and were the WPB to meet these demands, it might have to make more stock available to the industry.

George J. Schaefer, chairman of the War Activities Committee and industry liaison with the WPB on raw stock, who was scheduled to leave for California tonight on matters pertaining to his pending deal with Lester Cowan, yesterday decided to delay his departure until after the March 16 meeting. Schaefer will go to Washington tonight for further conferences with WPB representatives in an attempt to seek a solution to industry stock problems. Schaefer said here yesterday that he is only concerned with the problem of securing as much raw stock as possible for the industry and pointed out that he will not undertake to effect a solution of problems of individual companies or independent producers.

Bagnall, Raftery May Join Stock Talks

George Bagnall, United Artists vice-president, here from Hollywood, may participate in the meetings of the industry's War Production Board advisory committee with WPB officials on March 16, in Washington, when discussions will be held on second quarter raw stock allocations. Bagnall, along with Edward C. Raftery, UA president, would be acting in place of Gradwell Sears, hospitalized sales vice-president, who has participated in past raw stock talks.

Violators of Midnight Curfew May Be Jailed

Mayor LaGuardia has signed an amendment to the local law requiring closings at midnight in all places of amusement and other specified businesses, which subjects violators to a $50 fine and 30 days in jail. The local law, working in conjunction with the National order, was passed last week by the City Council and Board of Estimate.

The precedent of holding patrons of places illegally open after midnight as disorderly, and subjecting them to fines up to $50, may be applied throughout the nation.

Wolcott Plans Iowa Rental Tax Fight

ELDORA, Iowa, March 6.—Leo F. Wolcott, president of the Associated Independent Theatre Owners of Iowa-Nebraska, has issued a warning to urge members to oppose a bill for a two per cent tax on film rentals, now pending in the State Legislature.

Albert Brown, Once Head of Lambs, Dies

Albert Oldfield Brown, 73, Shepherd of the Lambs Club from 1922 to 1933, husband of Edna Wallace Hopper, died Monday in New York. He had been a stock broker by profession.

Lucille La Verne Dies

HOLLYWOOD, March 6.—Lucille La Verne, 72, retired character actress, died Sunday at Culver City hospital after an illness of several months. She ended her career in 1937, when her voice was heard as both the witch and the queen in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Black, Comptroller of Rank Circuit, Dies

LONDON, March 6.—George Black, 54, former leading exhibitor in England's North counties and lately comptroller of General Theatres Corp., J. Arthur Rank's music hall circuit, died yesterday at his home here following a long illness.

Best known for reviving vaudeville after the general theatrical slump here in the early 1930's, Black had been a figure in the entertainment world since the age of 11, when he and his father established the first permanent motion picture operation in Britain. He came to London in 1929 as manager of GTC.

Black is survived by his widow, two sons and a daughter.

Coast Services Held For Mark Sandrich

HOLLYWOOD, March 6.—Funeral services for Mark Sandrich, Paramount producer-director who died suddenly Sunday night, were held here this afternoon at Wilshire Boulevard Temple, B'nai B'rith, with Rabbi Edgar Magnin conducting. Interment was private. Pall bearers were Allan Scott, Charles Walton, Zion Myers, Dr. Louis A. Eschman, Ralph H. Blum, Arthur Wirtschafter and Y. Frank Freeman. Beginning at three o'clock, all employes in Paramount's studio observed a five-minute period of silence in accordance with a memorandum issued by Henry Ginsberg, studio head.

Jack Arnold Passes

MEMPHIS, March 6.—Funeral services were conducted at DeWitt, Ark., for Jack Arnold, Columbia Pictures salesman out of Memphis, who died in Little Rock.

U. S. Revises Fees For Outdoor Sites

WASHINGTON, March 6.—New fees and regulations for making motion pictures on lands under its jurisdiction were announced here today by the U. S. Interior Department in a revision of the order covering such activities which has been in effect since April 20, 1940.

On lands under the jurisdiction of Interior agencies, other than the National Park Service, for which heretofore a fee was imposed of $100 for each motion or sound picture for which a cast of more than 25 persons was required, without regard to the equipment used or the time or extent to which the area was utilized, a new schedule of fees on a per-day basis was announced, as follows: $10 for a cast of one to five persons, $25 for casts of 6 to 25, $50 for casts of 26 to 75, $75 for casts of 76 to 150, and $100 for casts in excess of 150.

For areas under the National Park Service the former schedule of fees, running up to $500 per day for casts of more than 25 persons, has been revised and now calls for daily charges of $50 for casts of one to five, $125 for casts of six to 25, $175 for casts of 26 to 75 and $250 for casts of 76 to 150, with charges for larger casts to be worked out by negotiation.

See Some Delay on Clearance Ruling

(Continued from page 1)

clearance, are not expected until shortly after the March 26 pre-trial conference in New York, Robert L. Wright, Assistant U. S. Attorney General, said on his return to Washington today.

Wright said that no decision has been made whether, in the event of a ruling against the Department, a motion would be made immediately to have the decree set aside. Such a motion could be made at any time, he pointed out, even at the time of the start of trial of the Government's anti-trust suit next October.

Wright said that Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard's ruling on the admissability of the appeal board decisions as evidence will be merely preliminary and not a final decision as to their use as evidence in support of the allegations of the Government as to defendants' acts for the purpose of determining whether there have been violations of law. The October 8 trial, he said, will be a trial of the original Government anti-trust suit "on its merits."

Tom Connors in 7th War Bond WAC Post

(Continued from page 1)

advised the War Activities Committee that Connors could assume the additional duties on such short notice. Skouras stated that the entire 20th Century-Fox organization will be available to cooperate with Connors and "back him up in this patriotic work."

In announcing Connors' appointment, Pinanski expressed regret at Sears' illness and appreciation of Connors' willingness to "pinch-hit" in this position.

"THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY" with George Sanders, Hurd Hatfield, Donna Reed, Angela Lansbury, Peter Lawford, Lowell Gilmore, Richard Fraser • Screen Play by Albert Lewin Based Upon the Novel by Oscar Wilde • Directed by Albert Lewin • Produced by Pandro S. Berman • An M-G-M Picture

LEO HAS PRODUCED A MASTERPIECE!

TALK ABOUT A HIT! Listen!

IN THE NATIONAL MAGAZINES AND SYNDICATED COLUMNS!

"People are talking about the movie 'THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY'—so amazing!"
—VOGUE MAGAZINE

"Orchids for 'THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY'!"
—WALTER WINCHELL

"M-G-M has given us a picture with a daring theme. Never did I dream it could be done so beautifully."
—ELSA MAXWELL
in her syndicated column

"See it and let it speak for itself!" —SIDNEY SKOLSKY

FROM HOLLYWOOD'S CORRESPONDENTS!

"Unusual! Exciting! 'THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY' will be the most talked about movie of 1945!"
—ERSKINE JOHNSON, Hollywood correspondent, Newspaper Enterprise Association

"No one should miss it! Breathless . . . from start to finish!"
—JOHN TODD, International News Service

"One of the most daring and revealing films ever produced! Truly remarkable!"
—FRED STANLEY, Hollywood correspondent, N. Y. Times

"One of the best to come out of Hollywood in years!"
—PHILIP K. SCHEUER, Los Angeles Times and Family Circle Magazine

"A daring story to film and M-G-M has filmed it daringly! Marks a milestone!" —HAROLD SWISHER, United Press

FROM THE TRADE!

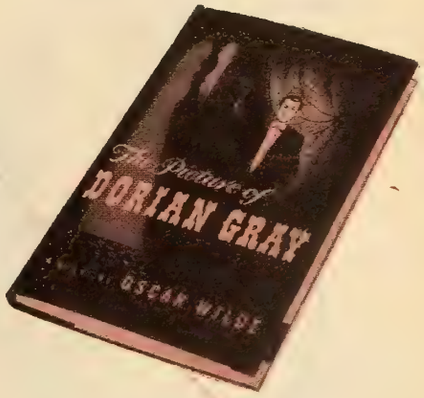
"Rugged box-office stuff. Swell entertainment. A thriller!"
—FILM DAILY

"Magnificently produced. Excellently acted. Will hold tense, fascinated interest. Outstanding performances."
—SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIEW

"Unusual, intriguing and novel. Interpreted with superlative artistry. Hurd Hatfield superb." —MOTION PICTURE DAILY

"Oscar Wilde's daring story exceptionally good film. Hatfield gives brilliant performance. Sends shivers up and down the spine."
—BOXOFFICE

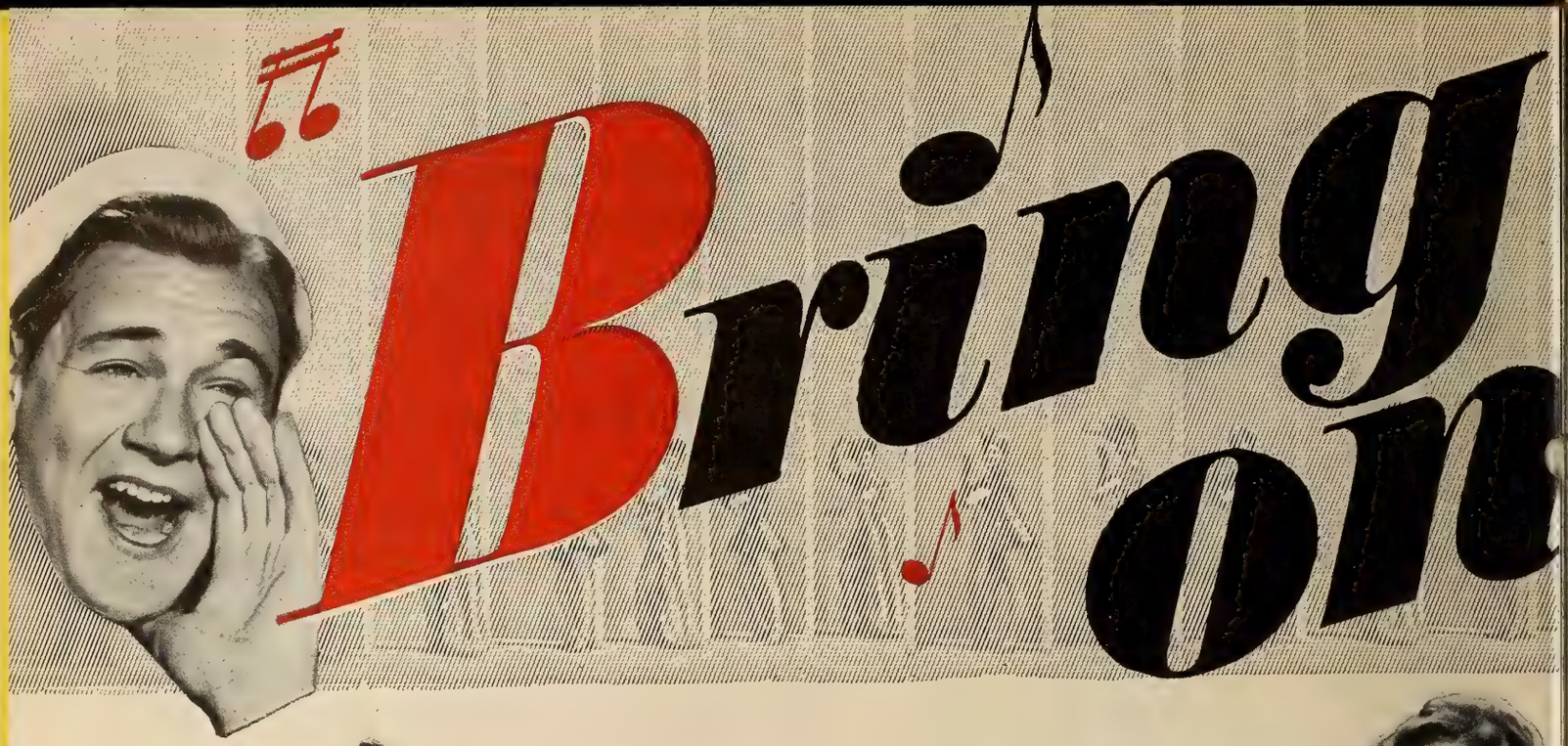
"Its magnificence can hardly be approached by any picture that has ever been made." —HOLLYWOOD REPORTER



FLASH!
2 YEAR RECORD!
Capitol, N. Y. World Premiere!

MGM

Red Cross Week—March 15-21
Collect At Every Show!



"WE'VE JUST OPENED TO TOP FIGURES AT THE N. Y. PARAMOUNT...

For Easter...

"AND WE'RE GONNA ADVERTISE IT IN FULL COLOR IN KEY CITIES COAST-TO-COAST.

Biggest and Most Glamorous Star-And-Girl Show Since "Star Spangled Rhythm," from

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"IT'S GOT LOADS OF LUSCIOUS GIRLS...

"AND GORGEOUS BIG-PRODUCTION SONG NUMBERS...

"AND DOZENS OF EXCITING NOVELTIES...

"LIKE SPIKE JONES' 'CHLOE' SEQUENCE —ONE OF THE GREATEST COMEDY BAND ACTS EVER!"

the Girls

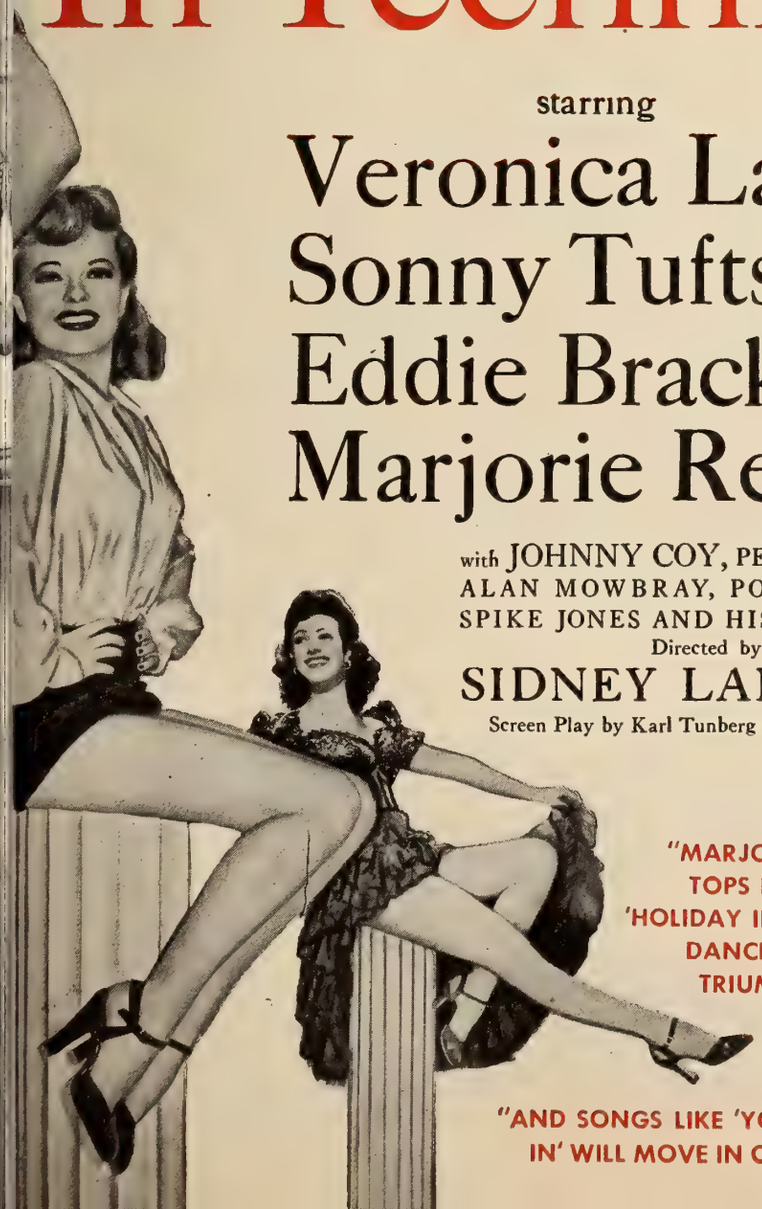
In Technicolor

"SONNY SINGS— AND PLAYS— AND GOOD!...

starring

Veronica Lake
Sonny Tufts
Eddie Bracken
Marjorie Reynolds

"EDDIE'S A BIGGER DRAW THAN EVER NOW THAT HE'S GOT HIS OWN AIR SHOW...



with JOHNNY COY, PETER WHITNEY, ALAN MOWBRAY, PORTER HALL, SPIKE JONES AND HIS ORCHESTRA

Directed by

SIDNEY LANFIELD

Screen Play by Karl Tunberg and Darrell Ware

"VERONICA'S A PROMOTION NATURAL AS A SUPER-CIGARETTE GIRL...

"MARJORIE TOPS HER 'HOLIDAY INN' DANCING TRIUMPH...

AND OUR NEW TAP DANCER — WHAT-A-BOY JOHNNY COY. HE'LL HAVE ALL THE FOLKS A-STARING!

"AND SONGS LIKE 'YOU MOVED RIGHT IN' WILL MOVE IN ON THE HIT PARADE!"

N. Y. Building Code 95% Set On New Houses

(Continued from page 1)

ments for projection booths in new theatres including provisions for special-effect machines and stereopticon equipment has also been set.

It was emphasized that requirements set by the committee are minimum ones and should not be confused with the standards according to the size of a theatre. Minimum requirements for projection booths in new theatres do not provide space for the installation of equipment which presumably will be needed to make projection of television programs onto screens possible, it was explained.

Upon completion of consideration of the code provisions on new theatres, the committee will then turn to consideration of provisions for existing theatres. Progress is reported on the latter, but several more meetings will be required before the committee completes that job. The next meeting will be held March 16.

Full Enforcement

Enforcement of the code, when adopted, "will probably be with the full force of law," it was explained. The Department's plan for strict enforcement is embodied in a bill introduced last week in the State Legislature by Senator William Condon of Westchester and Assemblyman Frederick A. Washburn of Columbia, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on March 1.

The Labor Department's advisory committee includes film members Henry Anderson, Paramount; Martin J. Tracey, Century Circuit; Theodore June, alternate for Harry Moskowitz, of Loew's, and Glen H. Humphrey, of IATSE projectionists Local No. 337.

Goldenson Heading South for Meeting

Leonard H. Goldenson, Paramount vice-president in charge of theatre operations, has left New York for Jacksonville where he will meet Leon Netter, theatre department executive in charge of Southern theatres, and Frank Rogers, president of Florida State Theatres, for conferences and a visit to theatres in the circuit.

Following his Florida visit, Goldenson will go to Cuba for conferences with R. Ramos Cobian, Paramount theatre partner in Havana and Camaguey.

Taylor Will Head Para. Coast Office

Alfred R. Taylor, for the past two years manager of the Paramount Indianapolis exchange, has been promoted to Los Angeles manager. Chester J. Bell, formerly L. A. manager, is on vacation, and announcement of his new assignment will be made upon his return.

Taylor will be succeeded in Indianapolis by G. Richard Frank, who has been special representative in that exchange.

Argentine Stops Spanish Films

Buenos Aires, March 6.—The Argentine Government has ordered the holdup of all Spanish spoken films of foreign origin, pending the issuance of an official decree restricting their exhibition. The action is the result of pressure by Argentine producers, who aim to eliminate competition.

Dual-Tax Exemption Listed by Treasury

WASHINGTON, March 6. — New regulations designed to accommodate the income tax laws to the "Double-Taxation Convention," ratified by the Senate in January, and proclaimed by President Roosevelt on Jan. 5 were issued by the Internal Revenue Bureau here today.

The regulations exempt from withholding and income taxes in this country all royalties derived here by a national of France as consideration for the right to use copyrights (films), patents, trade marks, etc., provided the French resident, corporation or other entity organized under the laws of France does not have a permanent establishment within the United States.

TBA Designates an Engineering Group

Formation of an engineering committee by Television Broadcasters Association, was announced by F. J. Bingley, committee chairman. Bingley is chief television engineer of Philco Radio and Television.

Serving on the engineering committee will be W. J. Purcell, General Electric; Dr. T. T. Goldsmith, Jr., Du Mont Laboratories; David B. Smith, Philco; O. B. Hanson and Robert Shelby, National Broadcasting; George Lewis, Federal Telephone and Radio; E. A. Hayes, Hughes Productions; Harry Lubcke, Don Lee Broadcasting System, and H. L. Blatterman, Earle C. Anthony, Inc.

Italians Draft Law To Revive Films

The Italian Government has announced that it is formulating a law which will serve to rehabilitate the Italian film industry and aid in reemploying some 100,000 persons, according to press dispatches yesterday from Rome.

The law will facilitate the use of property and materials partially saved from Nazi and Fascist pillaging. Italian actors, technicians and other film workers are now mostly unemployed.

Renew McGee and Molly

Fibber McGee and Molly, voted radio's best comedy team in the recent MOTION PICTURE DAILY-FAME radio poll, and who recently appeared in RKO's "Heavenly Days" have had their air-show contract renewed for another 52 weeks over a full NBC network, effective April 3. The pair have been sponsored by S. C. Johnson & Son on NBC since 1935.

Kirsch Asks Better Distributor Deals

(Continued from page 1)

situation is not reflected in neighborhoods, yet the independent exhibitor has fixed expenses he must meet regardless of receipts. If we are to give the distributors our preferred playing time, we must have more attractive deals to assure us a profit, or we cannot survive."

Following a check among members, Kirsch revealed that the combination of the midnight curfew and brownout edicts resulted in earlier trade in neighborhood houses, with little business coming in after eight p. m. Advanced admission pictures for neighborhood houses are not encouraged by Allied here, Kirsch said.

Seventh Term

Kirsch was re-elected president for a seventh term. Others re-elected include: Van Nomikos, vice-president; Richard B. Salkin, secretary; Harry Nepo, sergeant-at-arms. All directors, with the exception of John Semidatos, who was succeeded by John Mitchell, were re-elected. They are: Arthur Davidson, Ben Banowitz, Bill Charuhas, Edward Trinz, S. Roberts, Charles Nelson, Jack Rose, Ludwig Sussman, Ben Bertelstein, Joseph Stern, Verne Langdon, Benjamin Lasker, Abe Goldstein and Lou H. Harrison.

20th to Make Film On Allies' Confab

Twentieth Century-Fox Newsreel is making a feature for the OWI and the Coordinator's Office of the Inter-American Conference now taking place in Mexico City. Film will be distributed in all of South America by the OWI.

The picture, a documentary of the conferences, is in Spanish and Portuguese. It is being directed by Tony Muto, assisted by Al Brick. Paul Heise is handling sound, and Eduardo Fernandez is cameraman.

Saudek Rejoins Blue

Robert Saudek, returning to the Blue Network after a leave of absence for overseas duty with the Office of War Information, has been appointed manager of the network's sales service department, according to an announcement by Charles E. Rynd, vice-president and co-ordinator of operations. Saudek, prior to his OWI assignment, was Eastern sales manager of the Blue.

Kosiner Reception

Harry Kosiner, Eastern representative for Edward Small, will be host to representatives of the trade press and others at a dinner and reception at Toots Shor's tomorrow evening. A 'sneak preview' of "Brewster's Millions," new Small-United Artists release will be held at a local theatre following the dinner.

E. K.'s Seaman Retires

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 6.—Harry T. Seaman, head of the chemical sales division of Eastman Kodak, has retired after 45 years with the company. He was recently feted at dinner by 200 associates.

Consolidated Nets $561,719

(Continued from page 1)

$9,732,029, leaving an operating profit of $1,405,094, against $8,109,202 and an operating net of $1,256,136 in 1943, Yates reported.

At the end of 1944 Consolidated had current assets of $9,588,507, against current liabilities of $1,660,078, and total assets of $12,979,070. The 1944 net was equivalent to $1.40½ per share on the 400,000 shares of CFI preferred stock outstanding, against earnings of $1.44½ per share in 1943, both after all charges and Federal taxes, added Yates in his annual report to stockholders.

Income Rises Sharply

The company's president pointed out that, "Income from distribution of Republic Pictures for the year ending Oct. 27, 1944, was $14,555,925, which is substantially in excess of such income for the preceding fiscal year. In connection with net earnings for 1944, in the sum of $569,409, there should be noted deduction of $875,000 for Federal income and excess profit taxes, and advertising and publicity expenses of $1,319,623," he said.

"Due to financing of increased inventories and expansion of studio and distribution facilities, the loan indebtedness of Republic Pictures to Consolidated increased from $3,728,535 as of Oct. 31, 1943, to $5,206,640 as of Oct. 27, 1944."

Taxes Increase

Yates added that in comparing Consolidated Film Industries' net earnings of 1944 with 1943, "it should be noted that provision for Federal taxes and renegotiation of war contracts is $943,000 for 1944, compared with $585,000 for 1943, an increase of $358,000. Renegotiation of war contracts for 1943 has not yet been closed, but it is contemplated that it will result in a refund by the corporation and its subsidiary, Consolidated Molded Products Corp. of approximately $300,000 before adjustment for taxes. Renegotiation for 1944 has not yet commenced."

Consolidated's stockholders today also will receive a copy of the Setay-Republic annual statement, which discloses a $1,444,409 net profit for the year ended Oct. 27, 1944, realized on a $14,555,925 gross income from film rentals and royalties.

Pollock Heads Biow Film Department

(Continued from page 1)

headquarters at the company's Hollywood office, much of his time will also be spent in New York on final campaign conferences and promotion plans.

Before his United Artists association, Pollock was advertising manager for Universal, a post he held for six years. His earlier experience in the industry includes some ten years of field work as advance man and theatre circuit publicist with Publix, RKO, and other circuits. He entered show business in Chicago after several years as a newspaper reporter and feature writer on Metropolitan dailies.

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 46 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1945 | TEN CENTS

Army and Navy Release Grim Tales of War

Films Reaching Public Were Previously Curbed

An unannounced shift in policy by the Office of Censorship and representatives of the Armed Services is making available to the industry and the newsreels some of the grim and highly realistic war footage heretofore restricted to use for showings only to military personnel and privately in war plants as incentive films.

Industry spokesmen point out that the change was devised shortly after the German break-through in Belgium and the "battle for the bulge" last December.

While newsreel heads indicate that the footage which they have been receiving is more gruesome now since it echoes the stepped-up tempo of the ac-

(*Continued on page* 10)

13,937 Signed For R.C. Drive

To-date, 13,937 theatres, out of a possible 16,478, have pledged to participate in the industry's 1945 Red Cross War Fund Week, which starts next Thursday, and runs through the 21st. Leon J. Bamberger, national campaign director, said yesterday that this breaks all previous records for theatre participation, and pointed out that with one more week still to go the total is already more

(*Continued on page* 10)

Set New Exemptions From 'Brownout'

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The War Production Board today expanded the list of areas in which the 'brownout' order will not be imposed because its application would not result in the saving of critical fuels, but limited all exemptions, with the exception of those in Alaska, to June 30 and disclosed that by that date it would have completed a study to determine whether fuel can be saved by applying

(*Continued on page* 10)

$248,000,000 to US From UK in 5 Years

London, March 7.—Questioned here today in the House of Commons, Sir John Anderson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, disclosed that in five years, 1940 through 1944, 62,000,000 pounds—approximately $248,000,000—have been transferred to the United States with respect to American films shown in England. He admitted that there are no comparable figures available on receipts reaching here on British films shown in the U. S.

Companies Contend Decree Is 'Final'

The contention that the consent decree is a "final decree," and that its arbitration provisions have continued beyond a three-year trial period "by agreement of the parties," as suggested by the Department of Justice, highlights the memorandum filed in U. S. District court here by the consenting companies in opposition to the Government application for an injunction relating to clearance.

A reply memorandum from the Department is scheduled to be filed prior to March 26.

The companies' brief declares that the three-year limitation provisions of

(*Continued on page* 10)

Embargo in Flood Zone

CINCINNATI, March 7.—With transportation virtually at a standstill because of flood conditions in the area traversed by the Ohio River and its tributaries, the Railway Express Co. here has placed an embargo on film shipments, and the postoffice is accepting film only subject to indefinite delay. Although practically all theatres in the territory are closed at present, some companies are ordering film shipped to Lexington, planning redistribution from there to the few situations still open. Pictures now here are being sent to Lexington over a long series of detours.

Managers of the few theatres still operating here report that business is poor because people are busy either

(*Continued on page* 11)

OCR on Alert for New Cut in Prints

WASHINGTON, March 7.—As a result of protests from subsequent-run exhibitors over the 285-print ceiling established by the War Production Board in allocating raw stock for the current quarter, a representative of the Office of Civilian Requirements will sit in as an observer at the Industry Advisory Committee meeting

(*Continued on page* 11)

Seek Company Raw Stock for Reserve Pool

10 Million Feet to Be Held for 'Independents'

By BERTRAM F. LINZ

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Members of the Industry Advisory Committee coming to Washington March 16 to discuss second quarter raw stock allocations with War Production Board officials may be told that the over-all allocation for the industry will remain practically at its present level but that the various companies will be required to contribute to a reserve pool from which the film needs of independents will be met, it was learned tonight.

How large the pool will be will depend upon the definition

(*Continued on page* 11)

Mexico Wants 5,000,000 Ft.

The government of Mexico within the next 10 days, will ask the U. S. State Department for 5,000,000 feet of raw stock, over and above the allotment Mexico expects to receive from the U. S. this year. The request will be based primarily on the 'good

(*Continued on page* 11)

Kupper Selects 37 Aides For Anniversary Drive

W. J. Kupper, 20th Century-Fox general sales manager, has named 37 '30th Anniversary' drive representatives in company exchanges, as follows: Dan Houlihan, Albany; Marvin W. Doris, Atlanta; John Feloney, Boston; William Graham, Buffalo; H. L. Schlesinger, Charlotte; M. A. Van Dyke, Chicago; Gilbert Sheppard, Cincinnati; Frank Hunt, Cleveland; W. S. Miller, Dallas.

W. J. Kupper

Also: Carl Larson, Denver; Evan Jacobs, Des Moines; Al Levy, Detroit; Kenneth Dotterer, Indianapolis; William J. Kubitzki, Kansas City; Morris Sudmin, Los Angeles; John Carter, Memphis; George Edgerton, Milwaukee; Irving Mills, Minneapolis; Sam Germain, New Haven; G. J. Broggi, New Orleans; Seymour Florin, New York; Ferne Marker, Oklahoma City; Dorothy Weaver, Omaha.

Also: William Cohen, Philadelphia; Martin Seed, Pittsburgh; W. M. Patterson, Portland; Joseph Feld, St. Louis; Frank P. Larson, Salt Lake City; Floyd Bernard, San Francisco; J. W. Brooks, Seattle; Jerry Murphy, Washington; Frank Scott, Calgary; Mrs. W. Phelan, Montreal; Leslie Kerr, St. John; James Powis, Toronto; A. Cringan, Vancouver; Charles Krupp, Winnipeg.

Local Independents Name Al Suchman

Al Suchman was selected as buyer for the Independent Theatre Service, Inc., at a meeting of officers, directors and members held here this week. For the past three years, Suchman was on

(*Continued on page* 6)

In This Issue

Reviews of "Molly and Me," "The Crime Doctor's Courage," "Gangster's Den" appear on page 9; "Hollywood and Vine," "There Goes Kelly," "Navajo Trails," page 11. *Motion Picture Daily's* booking chart is on page 12.

Personal Mention

LOUIS B. MAYER, M-G-M vice-president in charge of production, is scheduled to arrive in New York from the Coast at the end of the month.

•

LT. THOMAS PATRICK COMERFORD, USNR, and LT. (J.G.) RUTH JOAN BARRY, USNR, were married Tuesday in Waterbury, Conn. LT. COMERFORD is a son of the late M. B. COMERFORD and MRS. MICHAEL B. COMERFORD.

•

H. J. YATES, SR., Republic Productions president; JAMES R. GRAINGER, Republic Pictures president and general sales manager, and WILLIAM SAAL, executive assistant to YATES, will leave here today for the Coast.

•

WILLIAM F. RODGERS, Loew's vice-president and general sales manager, will stop off in Washington March 16 for the raw stock conference, en route to New York from the Coast.

•

BERT KULICK, PRC general sales manager, and SIDNEY S. KULICK, Eastern sales manager, are visiting Gloversville and Buffalo.

•

R. K. HAWKINSON, RKO Radio assistant export manager, will return to New York today from a tour of the Caribbean territory.

•

TOM CONNORS, 20th Century-Fox vice-president in charge of distribution, has left New York for a Florida vacation.

•

A. W. SMITH, JR., 20th-Fox Eastern sales manager, is on a trip to Pittsburgh, Washington and Philadelphia.

•

NEIL F. AGNEW, Vanguard vice-president and general sales manager, is en route to the Coast from here.

•

LESTER KRIEGER, assistant to TED SCHLANGER, Warner Philadelphia manager, is visiting in New York.

•

RED KANN, vice-president of Quigley Publications, will arrive in New York from Hollywood tomorrow.

•

GEORGE A. SMITH, Paramount Western Manager, has arrived in Los Angeles from New York.

•

JACK SHEA, Shea Circuit booker and buyer, became the father of a third son yesterday.

•

HOWARD LEVINSON, Warner attorney, will return to New York tomorrow from Chicago.

•

WALTER E. BRANSON, RKO Radio Western sales manager, is in Chicago from New York.

•

SIR ALEXANDER KORDA has arrived in London from New York and Hollywood.

•

LOUIS PHILLIPS, Paramount home office attorney, will be in Chicago for a week.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

Ned Depinet's Bedside, Los Angeles, March 7

NED E. DEPINET, president of RKO Radio Pictures, is recuperating—and nicely—from exhaustion. He is expected to leave the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in about two weeks. Whether he will return to New York immediately after hospitalization is not yet determined. It is likely his doctor will order him to remain in Southern California in search of sunshine.

This is not as easy as it sounds. The Sierra Madre range is blanketed with snow. The wind of these mountains is chilly. Delayed rains are now on the way. Residents are complaining; evidently, they have not been reading what has been going on elsewhere in the nation.

Depinet is cheery and so is his room. It has a view which does not encompass the RKO studio. Along the walls, and practically a menace to navigation, are baskets of flowers in profusion. Report has it hospital routine is upset and vases are at a premium. In one corner are the sizeable beginnings of what the patient insists is not an office, but merely a rapidly growing series of folders. In them, tabbed down, are telegrams from all over the country. Friends are solicitous in their inquiries and some of them, inevitably, had to be funny.

Neil Agnew, vice-president of Vanguard, wired from New York: "Come on, pop, get your clothes on. Everybody is wise to the absentee racket."

Carl Leserman, general sales manager of United Artists, wired: "If you are trying to run a race with Sears, will lay six, two and even you will beat him to the wire."

Sam Dembow, illustrious independent producer, who recently was named president of Edward A. Golden Productions, telegraphed: "Thought you would be interested in knowing Grad Sears' application for membership in the Heartmen of the World has been approved. Don't know what your exact condition is, but if you think you could qualify will be glad to present your application to this honorable organization."

William A. Scully, vice-president in charge of domestic distribution for Universal, declared he was off to Miami to inspect his real estate holdings, but put his authority on display by advising, "Don't call any meetings while I am away."

Abe Montague, general sales manager of Columbia, sent this communique: "I never would have believed it—you old 'Iron Horse'." Depinet had no comment to make on the slur.

On the second evening of the incarceration, the telephone rang. The nurse said, "Ned Depinet's room."

What neither patient nor nurse heard was the caller's reaction. Muttering in his heart, he remarked, "Look! A production already."

■ ■

Hollywood

THOSE bold Warner Brothers step out once again with a hard-hitting film in "Hotel Berlin." Fictional, of course, and melodramatic well nigh to the point of the lurid, nevertheless this is one which has timeliness and headlines vastly in its favor, backed by one of the most unusual and most effective trade paper and billboard campaigns within latter day memory.

■

The purpose was to cash in on day-by-day events as the East-West pincers close on the Nazis and their capital city. And, while the attraction is built in due deference to the accepted formula of hero and villain and love and hate, "Hotel Berlin" actually goes beyond.

It reiterates those many stories, true or otherwise, dealing with plans to desert Hitler because the war is lost to Germany and to prepare for another day when the ignominy of crashing defeat may be retrieved. Consequently, the melodrama is coupled with a warning.

Likewise, does it take the political position to which the "Big Three" leaders subscribed at the Yalta conference and, in fact, closes with the text of the statement issued there. "Our purpose is not to destroy the German people . . . but . . . to wipe out the Nazi party and Nazi laws from the life of the German people. . . ."

■

Of course, there will be some, and in all probability many, who will not go along on this premise. Thus, there opens up the possibility "Hotel Berlin" may run headlong into differences of opinion on the contested issue of soft peace versus hard peace.

Insofar as box-office power is concerned, however, this can only help the picture. If an attraction is provocative, it follows it will be talked about.

If it is talked about, it stays alive in the stream of public consciousness.

When that happens, the results are apt to take on added vigor and added power.

U. S. Is Studying Population Shifts

WASHINGTON, March 7.—A new survey of war-time shifts in population, results of which may develop information of value to exhibitors, has been initiated by the U. S. Census Bureau, it was announced here today.

The study is being made at the request of many Government agencies which, it was said, are concerned with the effects of population shifts since the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The canvass will be made in the regular monthly survey of some 30,000 urban and rural households in 68 sample areas, through which a constant check is kept on the labor situation. It will develop information on the number and type of people who have moved from one part of the country to another since Dec. 7, 1941, the extent and character of migration from farms to cities, and the type of industries at which migrants worked.

20th-Fox in Victoria On 'Showcase' Deal

Twentieth Century-Fox will use the Victoria Theatre, here, in addition to the Roxy, as a Broadway 'showcase' for its pictures, under a new booking arrangement announced yesterday by Tom Connors, vice-president in charge of sales. Long runs at the Roxy have made this move necessary, said Connors.

The Victoria already has shown key 20th Century-Fox pictures, including "Wilson" as well as the current "The Fighting Lady." First to go into the Victoria under the new arrangement will be "Thunderhead—Son of Flicka," following "The Fighting Lady."

Pedrueza Is Named Top Mexican Censor

Dr. Antonio Ramos Pedrueza, former chief of the Mexican government tourist office in New York, now heads the censorship department of the Mexican motion picture industry. He is also secretary of the committee in charge of distributing raw film stock to the film companies there. Dr. Pedrueza has arrived in New York from Mexico to wind up his affairs here and will then leave for Mexico City.

Browning Pinanski Aide

Appointment of Harry Browning, advertising - publicity director for Mullin and Pinanski Theatres Corp., Boston, as executive assistant to Samuel Pinanski, national chairman of the industry's Seventh War Loan drive, for the forthcoming campaign, was announced here yesterday by Pinanski.

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ALWAYS THAT WARNER TIMING!

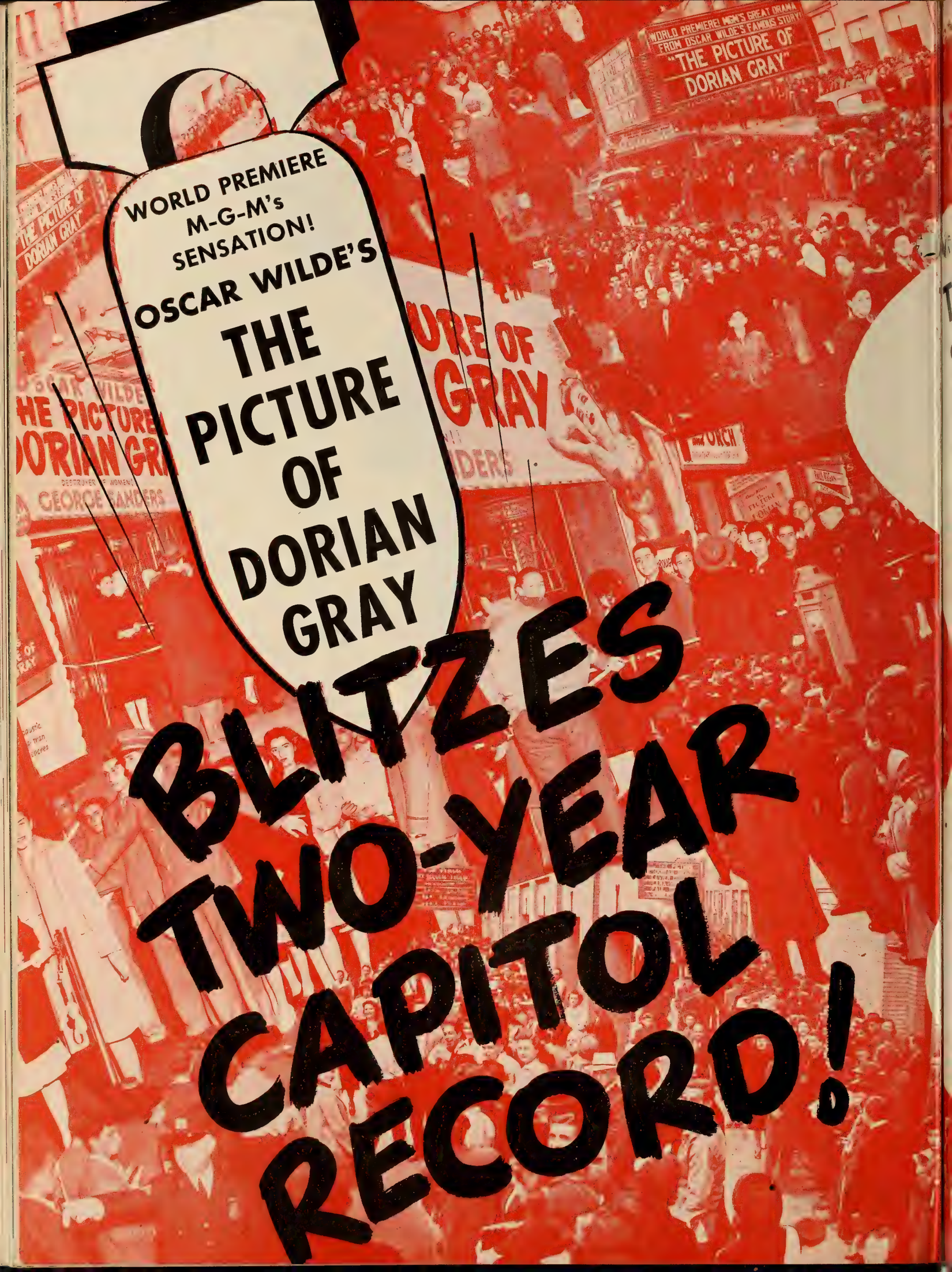
The Horn Blows at Midnight

(AND THE LAUGHS LAST ALL DAY.)

JACK BENNY · ALEXIS SMITH in "THE HORN BLOWS AT MIDNIGHT"

with DOLORES MORAN • ALLYN JOSLYN • REGINALD GARDINER • GUY KIBBEE • JOHN ALEXANDER

Produced by ARK HELLINGER · Screen Play by SAM HELLMAN & JAMES V. KERN · Based on an Idea by AUBREY WISBERG · Directed by


WORLD PREMIERE
M-G-M's
SENSATION!
OSCAR WILDE'S
THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY
BLITZES TWO-YEAR CAPITOL RECORD!
WORLD PREMIERE! MGM'S GREAT DRAMA FROM OSCAR WILDE'S FAMOUS STORY
"THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY"

THE TALK OF NEW YORK!

Critics predict it will be the most discussed picture of 1945!

"A bold step toward releasing the screen from many taboos . . . will cause a great deal of discussion."

"A BOLD STEP!"
—*KATE CAMERON, DAILY NEWS*

"Oscar Wilde's 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' brought to the screen with genuine distinction . . . M-G-M deserves credit on more than one count . . . the film preserves the racy eloquence . . . builds to an absorbing melodramatic climax . . . fascinating entertainment . . . well off the beaten road of Hollywood producing . . . an arresting and novel screen work."

"FASCINATING ENTERTAINMENT!"
—*HOWARD BARNES, HERALD TRIBUNE*

"'Dorian Gray' splendidly done . . . suspense with exciting surprises."

"EXCITING SURPRISES!"
—*LEE MORTIMER, DAILY MIRROR*

"Bids fair to be the season's most-discussed movie . . . an individuality of its own . . . exerts a strange and forceful fascination . . . likely to draw into theatres many people who usually don't like movies . . . one of the year's most interesting productions."

"FORCEFUL FASCINATION!"
—*EILEEN CREELMAN, EVE. SUN*

"Transferred to the screen with care . . . absorbing . . . far from the conventional."

"FAR FROM CONVENTIONAL!"
—*ROSE PELSWICK, JOURNAL-AMERICAN*

"Like nothing that has ever been done before on the screen . . . very responsive audience . . . M-G-M has come up with something socko."

"SOMETHING SOCKO!"
—*JANE CORBY, BROOKLYN EAGLE*

"A miracle of imaginative adaptation . . . absorbing picture . . . a full-blooded story of a fantastic life . . . monumental achievement."

"MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT!"
—*ALTON COOK, WORLD-TELEGRAM*

★

MAKE WAY! MAKE HAY!

M-G-M'S **THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY**

"THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY" with George Sanders, Hurd Hatfield, Donna Reed, Angela Lansbury, Peter Lawford, Lowell Gilmore, Richard Fraser • Screen Play by Albert Lewin Based Upon the Novel by Oscar Wilde • Directed by Albert Lewin • Produced by Pandro S. Berman • An M-G-M picture

Red Cross Week—March 15-21
Collect At Every Show!

Short Subject Review

"Honorable Discharge"

(RKO-Pathe)

The G. I. Bill of Rights is explained and documented in the latest "This Is America" release. While an officer gives a final orientation lecture to a group of soldiers awaiting discharge, the camera picks up different phases of the demobilization process. The material, prepared in collaboration with *This Week* magazine, is fresh and interesting, although the screen presentation is often somewhat academic. Camera shots made at an Army Separation Center serve as brief illustrations of the commentary but contain little dramatic development. The scope of the program, however, the wide range of opportunities it offers returning servicemen and the details of administration are absorbing enough to satisfy the majority of theatre patrons. Running time, 18 minutes.

SAG and SPU Balk at More Conferences

HOLLYWOOD, March 7.—The jurisdictional conflict between the Screen Players Union and the Screen Actors Guild centered in Washington again, after a fruitless conference before the National Labor Relations Board here yesterday, with SAG telegraphing NLRB chairman Harry A. Millis a request for immediate compliance with the producers' petition for clarification of SPU's certification as extras' bargaining agent.

The SAG telegram today declares the SPU telegram to Millis last night misrepresented the SAG stand at yesterday's conferences. Although local NLRB representative Stewart Meacham said further conferences between the organizations were planned, both sides indicated unwillingness to proceed further along this line.

Chicago Trend to Singles Continues

CHICAGO, March 7.—The Palace, RKO's 'ace' house here, has switched to single features Saturdays and Sundays, starting with "The Three Caballeros" this week end. Frank Smith, division manager, indicated that the policy will in all probability continue for the curfew duration. Double bills will still be in effect week days.

Balaban and Katz's Apollo and Garrick, which frequently play twin bills, have only singles scheduled for the next three months. The Garrick gets "The Fighting Lady" March 17 for a run, while the Apollo, following "Ministry of Fear," will play "Meet Me In St. Louis" and "A Song to Remember." This trend to singles here was originally disclosed in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 19.

Moore's Son a Prisoner

Victor Moore yesterday received word from the War Department that his son, Pfc. Robert Emmett Moore, who was reported missing in action two months ago, is a prisoner of war in Germany. Moore is in New York after having completed his role in Paramount's "Duffy's Tavern." Private Moore was in the cast of "This Is the Army."

Sussex Theatre Asks Clearance Relief

St. Cloud Amusement Corp., operating the Sussex Theatre, Sussex, N. J., has filed a clearance complaint against the five consenting companies, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

The defendants have been granting 14 days' clearance over the Sussex to the Ritz, Strand and Royal Theatres, Pt. Jervis, N. Y., the complainant stated, and claims that any clearance granted to the above theatres is unreasonable as to area, adding that if it should be found that some clearance is reasonable, 14 days would be unreasonable as to time.

Although the complainant asks that all clearance be eliminated, it states that if some clearance is found to be reasonable, it wants an availability date of pictures to the Sussex of one day after completion of exhibition at either of the above three theatres, whichever plays the product first; but that in no event later than eight days after it becomes available to the three.

Cowan Hits Postwar OWI Film Proposal

HOLLYWOOD, March 7.—Producer Lester Cowan today released the text of a letter to Robert Riskin, chief of the Office of War Information's overseas film bureau, declaring, "I cannot believe the war has affected you so little or so much that you should be responsible for the idea that the industry should finance a postwar OWI."

Quoting from published reports of Riskin's proposal, revealed by the latter at a press conference Monday as the purpose of his current visit here, Cowan summed up a two-page protest with the assertion that "to handicap our industry by imposing the stigma of propaganda or political control is the surest way of destroying it."

Cowan's is the first publicized reaction to the suggestion that Riskin is making to production executives.

Riskin declined comment on Cowan's letter but indicated that a statement on Hollywood's reaction to his suggestion may be made next week.

Bette Davis Received $241,083 from WB

Warner Bros. paid Bette Davis $241,083 for the year ended Aug. 31, 1944; Barbara Stanwyck was paid $223,333, Rosalind Russell received $202,500, and James Cagney received $183,652 as his participation in receipts from certain pictures, according to reports disclosed yesterday by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Herbert J. Yates, Jr., of Consolidated Film Industries was paid $75,000 last year, the SEC reported.

NBC to Fete Brooks

William F. Brooks, head of National Broadcasting's news and special events division, who returned to New York this week from a five weeks tour of the fighting fronts and war capitals, will give an 'on the record talk' at a press luncheon at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria here tomorrow.

Booth Fire Repairs Must Have Approval

WASHINGTON, March 7.—A caution to exhibitors that the repair of projection booths after fires must have War Production Board approval if an expenditure of $200 or more is involved was issued here today by Maurice M. Green, chief of the recreation section of the Office of Civilian Requirements.

The warning was issued because of an apparent widespread misapprehension among both exhibitors and supply dealers that no formalities were involved in the repair of booth-fire damage, which if not corrected, may lead the WPB to crack down on violators of its requirements.

$200 Limit

Green explained that damaged booth equipment may be repaired and reconditioned after a fire without formality, under the MRO (maintenance, repair and operations) regulation, but that if new equipment is required to the extent of $200 or more, or reconstruction calls for that much in materials and labor, it is necessary for the exhibitor to file an application on WPB Form No. 617, which should be filed with his nearest WPB district office.

While the purchase of used equipment, or the rebuilding or repair of fire-damaged apparatus is not regulated, he pointed out, the cost of the labor to install it must be computed in determining the total cost of the repair of the booth and its contents.

To Replace Burned Jersey Theatres

ATLANTIC CITY, March 7.—The Lyric, recently partially destroyed by fire, will be rebuilt, according to William Ford, owner-manager. The loss has been estimated at $50,000. His son now in the Army, will take over operation of the house when he returns from active duty.

At nearby Cape May Court House, it is expected that work will start shortly on the new theatre to replace the Hunt house, destroyed by fire. However, the theatre in Wildwood which was destroyed will not be replaced until the war is over.

Local Independents Name Al Suchman

(Continued from page 1)

the buying and booking staff of Schine Theatres. A graduate of City College, New York, Suchman was a former New York exhibitor; was with Selznick and Universal as a salesman; was assistant buyer for American Releasing Corp., and buyer for Consolidated Theatres of New York.

Independent Theatre Service is composed of 65 theatres of Northern New Jersey, and includes several independent circuits booking out of New York exchanges. Officers and directors of the organization are: Lee W. Newbury, president; Irving Dollinger, vice-president; Harry H. Lowenstein, secretary; David Snaper, treasurer; Joseph Siccardi, assistant treasurer; and Jacob Unger, Dr. Henry Brown, Louis Gold, Maurice Miller and Edward Lachman, directors. Offices have been taken in New York City, opening on April 1.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, March 5

IN order to introduce new talent into its writing department, Columbia has signed four young playwrights, Harry J. Essex, Martin Field, Guy Andros and John Lloyd. Richard Sokolove, story editor for the studio, will guide the group in the new medium. . . . Raoul Walsh will direct "The Adventures of Don Juan," Warner film in which Errol Flynn will be starred.

•

Doris Dowling has been added to the cast of "The Blue Dahlia," now in work at Paramount. . . . Producer Pandro Berman is back at M-G-M after six months' leave of absence. . . . Dance Director Seymour Felix has signed a new pact with 20th Century-Fox. . . . Howard Deighton has been appointed casting director of Universal, replacing Robert Speers, recently promoted to the post of executive in charge of talent.

•

Oliver Drake has been signed to direct "Springtime in Texas," second in Monogram's series starring Jimmy Wakely. . . . Columbia has purchased "Betty Co-Ed," an original by Erna Lazarus, as the basis for a 'teen-age musical similar to "Meet Miss Bobby Socks." . . . S. Z. Sakall will play a principal role in the forthcoming Warner film, "The Time, the Place and the Girl."

•

Bob Graham, singer on the Duffy's Tavern" radio program, has been given a new contract by Paramount. . . . Steve Dunhill will have a featured role in David O. Selznick's "Duel in the Sun." . . . Horace McNally has been assigned an important part in "Dangerous Partners," currently shooting at M-G-M. . . . Jim Bannon will play opposite Jinx Falkenburg in Columbia's "The Gay Senorita." . . . Edward Hudsen, recently spotted by a talent scout from 20th Century-Fox, has been signed to a term contract by that studio, and added to the cast of "Junior Miss." . . . As a result of letters from exhibitors, Warners has reconsidered its decision to drop the "Janie" series, Jack L. Warner, executive producer, announces.

Paramount Reports Three War Losses

Paramount's Albany exchange has received word of the death of Pvt. Lawrence Henderson as the result of wounds received in action with the First Army in Germany. Pvt. Henderson was employed there as a shipper at the time of his enlistment at the age of 18.

Ensign Frank La Grande, Jr., son of the manager of Paramount's Long Island Laboratory, is reported overdue on a flight from his carrier.

Pilot officer Jim Donald of the Royal Australian Air Force, formerly of Paramount's Sydney (Australia) office, is reported missing on his 39th combat mission over Europe.

$15,000 'Utah' Promotion

A campaign costing above $15,000 is being used for the first showing of Roy Rogers' outdoor musical, "Utah," which will open Saturday at the Republic Theatre, here.

A PICTURE THAT CAN TOP "GOING MY WAY"

Discovered!

WHAT'S YOUR GUESS?

COLLECT AT EVERY SHOW!
RED CROSS WEEK—MARCH 15-21

Paramount's

"FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS"

"GREAT...GIANT...LUSTY...SMASH," SAYS VARIETY

19% Over "Going My Way"

26% Over "Story of Dr. Wassell"

70% Over "Lady in the Dark"

"FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS"
IN TECHNICOLOR
starring
GARY COOPER
INGRID BERGMAN
From the celebrated novel by
ERNEST HEMINGWAY
with AKIM TAMIROFF • ARTURO de CORD
JOSEPH CALLEIA and KATINA PAXIN
Executive Producer B. G. DESYLV
Produced and Directed by
SAM WOOD
Screen Play by Dudley Nicho

First Time At Regular Prices

AT SEATTLE'S PARAMOUNT AND MUSIC HALL

Production Is Off Five, with 44 Shooting

HOLLYWOOD, March 7.—Production activity slackened somewhat during the week, as 11 pictures went to cutting rooms and only six were started; there were 44 in work, compared to last week's 49. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Finished: "Blonde from Brooklyn," "Surprise in the Night."

Started: "Rhythm Roundup," with Ken Curtis, Cheryl Walker, Hoosier Hot Shots, The Pied Pipers, Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys, Guinn Williams, Raymond Hatton.

Shooting: "Over 21," "Kiss and Tell" (Sol Siegel).

M-G-M

Started: "They Were Expendable," with Robert Montgomery, John Wayne, Ward Bond, Jack Holt, Leon Ames, Bruce Kellogg, Jeff York, Tim Murdock, Cameron Mitchell.

Shooting: "Dangerous Partners," "Early to Wed," "Yolanda and the Thief," "The Harvey Girls."

Monogram

Shooting: "Divorce."

Paramount

Finished: "Follow That Woman" (Pine-Thomas), "Cross My Heart,"

Shooting: "The Well-Groomed Bride," "Masquerade in Mexico," "You Came Along" (Hal Wallis).

PRC

Shooting: "Highway to Hell," "Why Girls Leave Home" (Sam Sax).

RKO Radio

Finished: "Mama Loves Papa," "The Spanish Main."

Started: "The Bells of St. Mary's" (Rainbow Productions), with Bing Crosby, Ingrid Bergman, Ruth Donnelly.

Shooting: "Falcon in San Francisco," "First Man Into Tokyo," "The Most Dangerous Game," "George White's Scandals of 1945," "Man Alive," "Invisible Army."

Republic

Finished: "Marshal of Laredo," "Scotland Yard Investigator."

Started: "Trail of Kit Carson," with Alan Ladd, Helen Talbot, Twinkle Watts, Tom London, Kenny Duncan, Roy Barcroft.

Shooting: "Girls of the Big House," "The Amazing Mr. M."

20th Century-Fox

Finished: "Don Juan Quilligan."

Shooting: "Within These Walls," "Dragonwyck," "Junior Miss," "The Dolly Sisters," "State Fair," "Captain Eddie," "Ten Little Indians" (Popular Pictures, Inc.).

United Artists

Started: "Duel in the Sun" (Vanguard Films), with Jennifer Jones, Joseph Cotten, Gregory Peck, Lionel Barrymore, Lillian Gish.

Shooting: "Paris — Underground" (Bennett); "Captain Kidd" (Bogeaus); "Young Widow" (Strombeg).

Universal

Started: "Pillow of Death," with Lon Chaney, Brenda Joyce, Rosalind Ivan, Wilton Graff, Edward Bromberg.

Shooting: "Men in Her Diary," "The Naughty Nineties," "Lady on a Train," "A Night in Paradise."

Warners

Finished: "This Love of Ours," "Three Strangers."

Shooting: "Stolen Life," "Shadow of a Woman," "Too Young to Know," "Mildred Pierce."

Reviews

"Molly and Me"

(20th Century-Fox)

THE stars of "Holy Matrimony" are back in another grand comic lark, offering the same irrestible blend of humor and pathos in a story that again shows a lonely old British aristocrat made happy by a capable woman from a lower social plane. But this is no sequel. Gracie Fields and Monty Woolley have brand new characters, shaped toward even better use of their special talents. As an unemployed actress she gets to work in some of her priceless music-hall stuff, and the role of a politician is more suited to him than was that of a timid painter.

The yarn, on the surface, would seem fraught with danger—and cobwebs. Miss Fields, needing a job badly, feigns experience as a housekeeper and takes over Woolley's tomblike home, where she soon installs an odd lot of her theatrical friends as the rest of the house staff below stairs. Their struggles with an important dinner skirt the precipice of farce, but director Lewis Seiler and his remarkable leading lady know when to keep drama to the front. She courts her difficult employer with tasty midnight snacks, shows him how to win the affection of his son, Roddy McDowall, and finally protects him from blackmail at the hands of his estranged wife, Doris Lloyd. The latter business, accomplished when the thespian servants assume melodramatic guise and scare the menacing woman into a retreat to South Africa, is extremely hilarious.

McDowall, as a schoolboy starved for parental love, appears at his adolescent best. Among the large supporting cast, yeoman work is done by Reginald Gardner as a butler and a Parisian playboy. Others delightfully present include Edith Barrett, Clifford Brooke, Aminta Dyne, Natalie Schafer, Queenie Leonard, Patrick O'Moore and Lewis J. Russell. Leonard Praskins' screenplay from Roger Burford's adaptation of Frances Marion's novel has many assets, chief of which is holding Woolley's epigrams within bounds. Robert Bassler's production is solid and unpretentious.

Running time, 76 minutes. General classification. April release.

TOM LOY

"The Crime Doctor's Courage"

(Columbia)

A LOOSELY-FASHIONED script, by Eric Taylor, that needlessly dawdles on its way, greatly militates against "The Crime Doctor's Courage," latest in this film series based on the radio program. Even Warner Baxter, in the title role, seems slightly bored with the proceedings, being infrequently called on to exhibit his alleged psychiatric powers; and there is too much talk.

What starts out to be an interesting study in the mental processes of Stephen Crane, who has lost two brides by accidents prior to a third marriage, to Hillary Brooke, is distressingly brought to a quick halt when Crane is found dead: a suicide or murdered. Suspicion fastens on Anthony Caruso and Lupita Tovar, dancers, who have acquired a reputation for vampirism. The case is broken when Robert Scott, in love with Miss Brooke, is found to have perpetrated Crane's murder, and was on the verge of killing Caruso, also, because he found that Miss Brooke was in love with the dancer. The vampire angle, it develops, was merely a publicity stunt for the dancers, concocted by Jerome Cowan, a mystery writer.

George Sherman had the thankless job of guiding this vehicle; Rudolph C. Flothow did lavishly on production.

Running time, 70 minutes. General classification. Released Feb. 27.

CHARLES RYWECK

"Gangster's Den"

(PRC)

BUSTER CRABBE, standard hero of the Sigmund Neufeld-Sam Newfield Westerns, takes a back seat in this one while Al (Fuzzy) St. John assumes the task of seeing it through. The veteran comic runs the gamut of routine slapstick, adroitly transplanting Sennett era gags to the saddle of a horse.

Fuzzy and Buster successfully take on the job of revealing Charles King and Stan Jolley as leaders of a gang determined to control the town and its valuable gold vein. Most of the action takes place in the local saloon, which St. John buys, and it is there that Crabbe is at his battling best.

The bewhiskered one's antics, supplemented by a limited dose of outdoor action, will no doubt appeal to youngsters and chronic Western fans. Cast includes Sydney Logan, Emmett Lynn, Kermit Maynard and Karl Hackett. Newfield directed from George Plympton's original, a few essentials of which seem to have been left on the cutting room floor.

Running time, 55 minutes. General classification. Release date, June 14.

T. L.

Contner to Free-Lance

J. Burgi Contner has resigned as vice-president and chief engineer of Cineflex Corp. here. Cineflex has been manufacturing a 35mm combat motion picture camera which was designed by Contner for the Army Air Forces. He formerly owned and operated the Motion Picture Camera Supply, Inc. He will do free lance engineering and consulting work in the film field.

Conclude Hearings In RKO Dispute

The three-man panel of the Regional War Labor Board has concluded hearings here in the contract dispute between RKO and Motion Picture Theatre Operating Managers and Assistant Managers Guild. The Guild is collective bargaining representative of managers and assistants in 40 RKO theatres in Metropolitan New York.

Recommendations of the panel will shortly be presented to the RWLB, and both company and the Guild given an opportunity to answer the panel's findings before the board issues its directive.

Jules Justin, chairman of the panel, is understood to be still seeking to reconcile RKO and the Guild on some aspects of the dispute. Significant points are said to be wages and hours and the manner of arbitrating disputes. Guild claims that managers now work a 62-hour week.

RKO is understood to be resisting the Guild's demand for the referring of all disputes arising under the eventual pact to the New York State Board of Mediation or the American Arbitration Association.

420 Advance Dates On 'Berlin,' 'Co-Pilot'

Warner's "Hotel Berlin", generally released on March 17, has been set for advance showings in 220 situations to date, while "God is My Co-Pilot", set for national distribution April 7, has approximately 200 pre-release openings already booked. The combined bookings gave Warners one of the heaviest advance booking schedules in years, the company reports.

First out-of-town showings of "Hotel Berlin," now in its premiere at the New York Strand, takes place in three Los Angeles houses and at the Warner Theater, Atlantic City. "God is My Co-Pilot," had its premiere in Macon, Ga., goes into the New York Strand on March 23. West Coast premiere, at the Plaza Theater, Palm Springs, Cal., at advanced prices for the benefit of Palm Springs Community Hospital, has been changed to March 21.

Legion Reviews 10 Additional Films

The Legion of Decency this week reviewed 10 additional films. In Class A-1 are: "House of Fear," Universal, and "The Unseen," Paramount. In Class A-II, are: "I Remember April," Universal; "Molly and Me," 20th Century-Fox; "Song for Miss Julie," Republic; "Spell of Amy Nugent," PRC; "Strange Illusion," PRC; "They Came to a City," Balcon-Ealing (British); "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," 20th Century-Fox.

In Class B, "The Great Flamarion."

20th to Release Four

Ernst Lubitsch's "A Royal Scandal," "Molly and Me," the popular-price run of "The Song of Bernadette" and the re-release of Darryl F. Zanuck's "Call of the Wild" have been announced as 20th Century-Fox's April pictures, the vanguard of the company's 30th anniversary releases.

Army and Navy Release Grim Tales of War

(Continued from page 1)

tion, they admit that recent shots showing the digging up of the bodies of American soldiers who had been taken prisoner by the Nazis and shot to death, really proved shocking to the public.

The new realism in depicting the war has also been given greater emphasis in special films made available to theatres through the Army Pictorial Service. The newest, "The Enemy Strikes," being released through the War Activities Committee and featuring captured Nazi footage depicting the battle following the Nazi offensive, is cited as being one of the grimmest films yet to be released for public exhibition.

The film campaign arranged for the War Manpower Commission, featuring the showing of "What's Your Name" in theatres, and the showing of "The Line Is Busy," "Just for Remembrance," "Hands," and "Silence," in conjunction with a campaign to recruit manpower for war plants in New York, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, is also cited for new heights in presenting the more shocking aspects of the war, to arouse the home front.

'Iwo' Evidence

Further evidence of the new realism in footage being made available to the newsreels is the release of "The Battle of Iwo" which is described as showing the horrors of war "to the greatest extent yet of any war film released." The reel, running 10 minutes and showing both Iwo landing preparations and actual battles, depicts death through rifle and machine gun fire, mortar and artillery bombardment, hand grenades and liquid fire in the landings and establishing of bridgeheads.

Newsreel footage on the capture of Manila also marked a new high in realism.

"Fury of the Pacific," WAC release set for March 22, is a 20-minute record of an amphibious assault, typifying the fury of war in the Pacific and containing closeups of Japs in combat and scenes of U. S. troops photographed so close to the enemy that nine combat cameramen were hit while taking the footage, another step in the direction of bringing the grim horrors of war home to the American people.

Bill to Put Closing of Plays Up to Courts

ALBANY, March 7.—Senator Fred Moritt, Brooklyn, today introduced a bill providing that no play or theatrical performance can be banned before submission of the case to the courts. It would amend the Civil Practice Act to require that a court must issue, for the producer, an injunction restraining the enforcement authorities when they order a play or performance closed because of alleged indecency. The measure, a result of the recent closing of "Trio" on Broadway, does not affect motion pictures.

13,937 Theatres Pledged For Red Cross Campaign

(Continued from page 1)

than 500 theatres ahead of last year's 13,434.

Latest area to join the 100 per centers in theatres pledged is Northern New Jersey which crossed the line yesterday with every theatre in the area signed up, a total of 265. Exhibitor co-chairmen for Northern New Jersey are Harry Lowenstein and Frank Damis; distributor chairman is Ed Bell.

In addition to Northern New Jersey, other 100 per cent territories include Albany, Buffalo, Delaware, Rhode Island, and San Francisco, with ten other areas in the 90 per cent and over class.

Para. Red Cross Rally March 14

Paramount employes in the metropolitan New York area will launch their 1945 Red Cross War Fund campaign March 14 with a rally sponsored by the Pep Club in the home office recreation room, Arthur Israel, Jr., executive assistant to Barney Balaban, president, announced here yesterday. Israel has been named chairman of the Paramount campaign.

Arthur Mayer, deputy commissioner of the American Red Cross in the Pacific area, recently returned from the South Pacific, will be the principal speaker and will bring greetings from Stanton Griffis, Paramount executive committee chairman, who is serving as Red Cross commissioner for the Pacific area.

Israel has appointed as aides on the campaign committee, Al Finestone, co-chairman; George Shupert, and J. P. McLoughlin, who will serve as treasurer. R. M. Weitman, managing director of the New York Paramount will stage a special Red Cross musical presentation at the rally.

Fabian to Give Bond For Red Cross Quota

ALBANY, March 7.—Every Fabian manager who exceeds his 1945 Red Cross collection quota will receive a war bond from S. H. Fabian, head of the circuit and national chairman of the War Activity Committee's exhibitor division. Saul J. Ullman, general manager of Fabian Theatres upstate, said he had been authorized to make this announcement for the Albany - Troy - Schenectady - Cohoes - Catskill territory.

Ullman stated that Fabian houses in this district collected over $14,000 in the 1944 drive, "which topped all independent theatre circuits in upstate New York." Nine Fabian theatres participated.

RKO Theatres Prepare For Red Cross Week

Red Cross War Fund Week will be started at RKO theatres next Thursday by special stage activities, according to a joint announcement by James M. Brennan, general manager of RKO's New York theatres, and Sol A. Schwartz, manager of out-of-town theatres. Appropriate ceremonies to inaugurate the week have been set up.

In out-of-town vaudeville theatres, the stage shows will include a special, in person, tribute to the Red Cross. In the New York area, RKO theatres featuring organists and playing vaudeville one or two nights weekly will accentuate the Red Cross angle in specialties. Other out-of-town stunts will include personal appearances of local personalities, returned servicemen and women, "graduation" of girls as nurses' aids, auction nights, and the enlistment of Elks, Kiwanians, Lions and Rotarians for their help.

More to Red Cross From 20th Shorts

Tom Connors, vice president in charge of sales of 20th Century-Fox, has reported that all of the company's branches have been instructed to present additional checks in the amount of $250 each to local Red Cross Chapters. This is in addition to checks of $500 already presented by each of the branches.

The additional checks represent monies from the 'Victory Shorts' distributed by 20th-Fox, accruing from rentals in excess of production costs. The exchanges are presenting the checks jointly in the name of the corporation and exhibitors in each territory.

Walsh Named Chairman

WILKES-BARRE, PA., March 7.—William Walsh, a Comerford manager, has been appointed chairman of the theatres division of the Wyoming Valley 1945 Red Cross War Fund campaign.

Sunday Shows Fail Passage in Georgia

ATLANTA, March 7.—Amidst a battle between preacher members of the legislature, two of whom backed the bill, and one who fought it, the House has declined to legalize Sunday films. The vote was 87 to 67; the bill requires a constitutional majority of 103.

Although Sunday films have no legal status, many Georgia cities permit operation of theatres on Sundays where theatres contribute profits to charity.

Award for Rogers

Screen Guide will present its 'Favorite Western Star' award to Roy Rogers, Republic, next Tuesday, on the star's regular weekly program, heard Coast-to-Coast over Mutual.

Kresch, WB Attorney, Is Killed in Italy

PHILADELPHIA, March 7.—Capt. D. Benjamin Kresch, former member of the Warner Bros. legal staff both here and in New York, was killed in an airplane crash in Italy, Feb. 2, it is learned here.

Capt. Kresch was attached to the Intelligence Division, Air Transport Command. He was a prominent member of the Variety Club Tent No. 13.

Hope M.C. for Academy

HOLLYWOOD, March 7.—Bob Hope will be master of ceremonies on the broadcast of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' 17th annual award ceremonies here March 15, it was announced today.

Companies Contend Decree Is 'Final'

(Continued from page 1)

the decree were intended "to restrict the right of the defendants to seek modification of the decree, and of the plaintiff to bring to trial the issues upon which it bases its demand for divorcement and dissolution during that period. There is thus, it observes, "no basis whatsoever for the suggestion that the arbitration provisions of the decree are now in force merely as an agreement between the parties, and not by virtue of this court's decree."

The brief points out that the Government did not make that contention in its proposals for an amended decree last Aug. 7.

Contending that clearance is legal and necessary, the brief asserts that in the 51 arbitration cases on which the Government relies for its injunction to prevent the granting of clearance to theatres charging substantially the same admission prices, numerous considerations apart from the admission prices charged entered into the arbitrators' findings to produce the decisions.

Claiming also that an agreement between a distributor and an exhibitor fixing the exhibition price to be charged the public during exhibition of the distributor's picture is legal, the brief cites a Government declaration to that effect made in a brief in the U. S. vs. Interstate Circuit case.

In conclusion, the companies' brief asserts that the Government has failed to show "that defendants have imposed clearances which even *prima facie* violate the Sherman Act, or that the existing decree fails to give adequate relief, and its present motion (for an injunction) should be denied."

Set New Exemptions From 'Brownout'

(Continued from page 1)

the order to such areas during the last half of this year.

As the order now stands, the brownout will not apply to Ketchikan, Seward or Juneau, Alaska; nine counties and three cities in Arizona; the city of Hope, Ark.; any part of California, except the areas served by the San Diego Gas and Electric Co. and Santa Catalina Island Co.; four cities in Colorado, and the entire state of Idaho.

Also Garden City and Walnut, Kansas, and part of Morton County, are exempt, as is most of Louisiana, the city of Rumford, Maine, after April 1; part of Michigan, Yazoo City, Miss.; all of Montana; Palisade, Nebr.; Caliente, Nevada, and 13 counties; much of New Mexico, including Clayton and Gallup; those areas in New York served by the cities of Plattsburgh, Lake Placid and Rouses Point, by Paul Smith's Electric Light and Power and Railroad Co. and the New York State Electric and Gas Corp.; part of Oklahoma, including Stillwater; all of Oregon; nine cities in South Dakota; most of Texas; all of Utah; Derby Line and Norton, Vt.; all of Washington; Rainelle, W. Va.; Radisson, Wis., and Basin and Buffalo, Wyo., and part of Teton County.

Raw Stock Sought For Emergency Pool

(Continued from page 1)

of "independent" under which he becomes eligible to draw from it, but it is believed it will run in the neighborhood of 10,000,000 feet or a little more.

The proposal is known to have been the subject of discussions between WPB officials and representatives of the industry, but the details have not yet been worked out.

It is pointed out that while, in effect, the setting up of a pool on the basis of allocations continuing at their present level means that the companies will be cut to the extent of their contributions, actually the film will flow back as it is drawn for use by independents, although it is admitted that it will not go back to the companies in the same proportion as they contributed.

Brief Difficulties

The difficulties which a pool would raise for the contributing companies is seen in Washington as extending over a matter of only a few months, and by the third quarter it is hoped that supply conditions will be considerably improved. This improvement will be due in part to possible downward trends in military and export requirements and in part to the coming into operation of the plants in France and Holland.

Another beneficial factor is the downward trend in British and Russian requirements. Both those countries came in with requests for considerable film for shipment this quarter, Russian requirements being in the neighborhood of 30,000,000 feet, but explained that they would need less in the second quarter. It is understood that Russian allocations for the coming quarter will be 15,000,000 feet or less and those for England will be negligible.

OCR on Alert for New Cut in Prints

(Continued from page 1)

here on March 16, it was learned today.

An OCR spokesman said that the representative will be an experienced theatre man thoroughly conversant with the needs of exhibitors and of subsequent run houses.

It was explained that it is the responsibility of the OCR to protect the interests of exhibitors and that fears have been expressed that the formation of a raw-stock pool which has been discussed by WPB officials might invoke a further curtailment of the number of prints permitted for a feature.

While there has not yet been sufficient experience under the 285-print limitation to demonstrate whether, as contended by some exhibitors, it will adversely affect subsequent-run houses, it is believed that any further cut in number undoubtedly would do so. Reports in New York indicated that proposals had been made to cut the limit to 250, but so far as could be ascertained no such suggestion has yet reached the WPB.

It was indicated that if any further cuts are made by the WPB which will burden exhibitors, a meeting of the OCR Theatre Industry Advisory Committee will be called.

Reviews

"Hollywood and Vine"

(PRC)

SINCE one of Hollywood's, and America's, favorite topics is Hollywood, ample assurance is present for a readymade audience to receive a story emanating from one of the more famous crossroads of the world, 'Hollywood and Vine.' It will probably score as well, within its limitations of budget and marquee power, both in Los Angeles and Oshkosh, for it is a frothy treatment of the dream capital of the world.

Edith Watkins' and Charles Williams' screen play, from a Robert Wilmot, Watkins-Williams original, is conventional enough in its engaging tale of a boy, a girl and a dog, until the animal starts wagging the tale. The boy woos, pursues, is spurned. Then the plot goes off the deep end of farce; the dog becomes a star, and is made the center of a lawsuit as to his legal owner, with the girl one of the principals. The inevitable reunion occurs, with all 'three' together again.

James Ellison as the boy and Wanda McKay as the girl are more than adequate. It is to be wondered why Ellison has not achieved more eminence as leading man, for he has all the prerequisites. Franklyn Pangborn, Ralph Morgan, Leon Belasco, June Clyde and Emmett Lynn lend sterling support. Alexis Thurn-Taxis' direction is good; Leon Fromkess produced.

Running time, 58 minutes. General classification. Release date, April 25.

C. R.

"There Goes Kelly"

(Monogram)

A MODEST budgeter that achieves but a modicum of entertainment value has been turned out in "There Goes Kelly." Although it has its amusing moments, keyed to the tastes of more youthful audiences, mystery elements which are injected are done so ineptly that the murderer is found to be a minor character, which isn't exactly cricket.

Screenplay, by Edmond Kelso, has to do with the antics of Jackie Moran and Sidney Miller, page boys in a radio studio, who try all sorts of dodges to get Wanda McKay, receptionist, an audition as a vocalist. When Jan Wiley, star vocalist, is murdered and suspicion eventually fastens on Miss McKay, Moran, leading a reluctant Miller, plunges head first into the mystical doings and comes up with the head of the radio station as chief suspect. But murder will out, and so does the real killer.

Moran and Miller struggle manfully, and almost succeed in instilling more than a mild interest in the proceedings. Ralph Sanford, Dewey Robertson, Anthony Warde, Harry Depp, George Elredge, Edward Emerson and John Gilbreath are others in the cast. Phil Karlstein directed, William Strohbach was associate producer, and Tim Ryan wrote additional dialogue.

Running time, 61 minutes. General classification. Released, Feb. 16.

C. R.

"Navajo Trails"

(Monogram)

Hollywood, March 7

JOHNNY MACK BROWN and Raymond Hatton, who ride the range under the names of 'Nevada' and 'Sandy,' are seen here in a vehicle well suited to their talents. It is a fast-moving, well-thought-out, plausible Western, and a credit to supervisor Charles J. Bigelow and director Howard Bretherton.

According to Frank Young's screenplay, based on a story by Jess Bowers, a vacation long planned by the two U. S. marshals is interrupted by the murder of a Texas Ranger. The boys set out to track down the killer and, in the course of their journey, come upon a band of outlaws whose practice it is to steal horses from a neighboring Indian tribe and to kill anyone who interferes with their operations. The resourceful 'Nevada' assumes the identity of a notorious bandit and is accepted as such by the outlaws. Unfortunately for his plan to trap the rustlers red-handed, 'Sandy' is recognized as an officer of the law. Thereupon ensues a fast and bloody battle, in which Jennifer Holt distinguishes herself as an expert riflewoman, and the two marshals round up such rustlers as are left alive by the lady.

Others in the cast include Riley Hill, Jim Hood, Jasper L. Palmer, Edmund Cobb, Bud Osborne, Earl Crawford and Charles King.

Running time, 56 minutes. General classification.

THALIA BELL

Kraska Promoted

BOSTON, March 7.—George Kraska, former manager of Loew's Orpheum, here, has been promoted to advertising-publicity director of all of Loew's Boston theatres, succeeding Joe Longo, who will join Terry Turner on the road for RKO Radio.

NLRB Hearing On

HOLLYWOOD, March 7.—National Labor Relations Board hearings on the jurisdictional dispute between the Set Decorators Union and IATSE adjourned here today after the taking of preliminary testimony and will be resumed tomorrow.

Form Chinese Prod.

HOLLYWOOD, March 7.—Richard Loo and Keye Luke, actors, have formed Chinese Productions, Ltd., to make a Chinese version of RKO's "First Man into Tokyo" for distribution in China's 800 theatres when practicable. Loo, president, and Luke, treasurer, now working in the picture, will employ an all-Chinese cast in their version.

Powell in Albany

ALBANY, March 7.—Dick Powell, star of "Murder, My Sweet," and Mike Mazurka, wrestler in the cast, will appear at all showings of the film in the Palace Theatre here Friday.

Mexico Wants 5,000,000 Ft.

(Continued from page 1)

will' policy of this Government, and will be used in the making of six full length operas which will be filmed during the Summer with U. S. stars in principal roles.

In order to attract tourists, the Mexican government is financing the National Opera of Mexico to the extent of over $1,000,000 for the longest opera season in Mexico's history, from May to September. Stars of the Metropolitan Opera are being offered large fees to appear, but many who are foreign born, and not U. S. citizens, are wary of leaving this country. As a further inducement, Mexico plans a series of six operatic features, at an average cost of over $200,000 each, all in their original languages, to star Metropolitan personnel. Among the singers whom Mexico hopes to obtain are Lily Pons, Rise Stevens, Florence George (wife of Everett Crosby), Salvatore Baccaloni, Joephine Tuminia and others who have made films here. With the raw stock shortage, the whole project has been on the verge of collapsing.

De Quesada Here

Ernesto de Quesada, president of the National Opera of Mexico, is in New York negotiating with the singers. He has phoned Mexican government representatives to warn them of a possible falling through of the entire deal if some help is not forthcoming on raw stock. Edward Stettinius, Secretary of State, will be notified shortly of the Mexican request.

The films would be financed partly by the Mexican government and partly by an American oil company, presumably Standard Oil.

It is also understood that negotiations are under way with National Broadcasting, here, to carry sponsored broadcasts of the operas and individual performances of the singers during the Summer.

Morris Silkind will be in charge of all production.

Clamp Film Embargo On Flood Territories

(Continued from page 1)

fighting the flood or making "sightseeing tours" of the waterbound areas.

The Ohio, from its headwaters at Pittsburgh all the way to the Mississippi, rose today toward levels reached only twice before in history. The crest is expected to pass the 70-foot mark, 18 feet above flood stage, and the 45-foot flood stage at Louisville is fast being approached. Thousands have been made homeless and at least seven lives lost along 1,000 miles of Midwest lowlands. The Red Cross reported 5,000 to 6,000 families evacuated from their homes along both sides of the river here.

Little danger, however, was seen in Pittsburgh, where the U. S. Weather Bureau predicted a high level of 33.5 feet, and tributary streams over Western Pennsylvania were ebbing slowly. Reports from Albany indicated that below freezing temperatures had apparently ended, at least temporarily, Western New York flood threats.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Feb. 10	SING ME A SONG OF TEXAS Rosemary Lane Hal McIntyre Orch. M—66 mins. (6221)	(Special Release) MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS (Color) Judy Garland Margaret O'Brien M—113 mins. (512) (Rev. 11/1/44)	CISCO KID RETURNS Duncan Renaldo O—64 mins. (429)	(Third Block) HERE COME THE WAVES Bing Crosby Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts M—97 mins. (4411) (Rev. 12/18/44)			(Special) THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE (Goldwyn) (Color) Bob Hope Virginia Mayo C—94 mins. (551) (Rev. 10/11/44)			HER LUCKY NIGHT Andrews Sisters Martha O'Driscoll M—63 mins. (Rev. 1/29/45)	
Feb. 17	TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT (Color) Rita Hayworth Janet Blair Lee Bowman M—92 mins. (Rev. 1/25/45)	(Tenth Block) MAIN STREET AFTER DARK Edward Arnold Selena Royle D—56 mins. (514) (Rev. 11/28/44)	GUN SMOKE Johnny Mack Brown O—57 mins. (455) (Rev. 1/19/45)	DANGEROUS PASSAGE Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4412) (Rev. 12/21/44)	SPELL OF AMY NUGENT (English) Derek Farr D—63 mins. (Rev. 2/15/45)	GREAT STAGECOACH ROBBERY Wild Bill Elliot Bobby Blake O—56 mins. (3317) (Rev. 2/21/45)	(Special Release) BELLE OF THE YUKON (International) (Color) Randolph Scott Gypsy Rose Lee Dinah Shore C—84 mins. (583) (Rev. 11/29/44)	(Feb. Release) (Special Release) A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN Dorothy McGuire Joan Blondell D—128 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/24/45)		THE HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN Boris Karloff John Carradine D—71 mins. (9013) (Rev. 12/22/44)	
Feb. 24	LEAVE IT TO BLONDIE Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C	MUSIC FOR MILLIONS Margaret O'Brien Jose Iturbi M—117 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/13/44)	DILLINGER Elisha Cook Jr. Lawrence Tierney D—70 mins. (402)	FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS (Color) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—158 mins. (4413) (Rev. 7/15/43)	FOG ISLAND Lionel Atwill George Zucco D—72 mins. (Rev. 2/15/45)	SONG FOR MISS JULIE Shirley Ross Cheryl Walker M—69 mins. (411) (Rev. 2/20/45)	HANGOVER SQUARE Laird Cregar Linda Darnell D—77 mins. (516) (Rev. 1/17/45)			THE MUMMY'S CURSE Lon Chaney D—60 mins. (9036) (Rev. 12/22/44)	OBJECTIVE, BURMA Errol Flynn D—144 mins. (411) (Rev. 1/26/45)
Mar. 3	A SONG TO REMEMBER (Color) Paul Muni Merle Oberon Cornel Wilde D—113 mins. (Rev. 1/18/45)	BLONDE FEVER Philip Dorn Mary Astor C—69 mins. (516) (Rev. 11/28/44)		PRACTICALLY YOURS Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray C—90 mins. (4414) (Rev. 12/15/44)	THE MAN WHO WALKED ALONE Dave O'Brien Kay Aldridge O—74 mins. (Rev. 2/2/45)	SHERIFF OF CIMARRON Sunset Carson Linda Stirling O—55 mins. (454)	(Special Release) THE THREE CABALLEROS (Disney) (Color) M—71 mins. (591) (Rev. 12/12/44)	THUNDERHEAD SON OF FLICKA Roddy McDowall Preston Foster O—78 mins. (518) (Rev. 2/1/45)	*(To be released during the period covered by this chart, but definite dates not set)* *BREWSTER'S MILLIONS* *Edward Small Prod.* *DELIGHTFULLY DANGEROUS* *Charles R. Rogers Prod.* *93 mins.* *(Rev. 2/26/45)*	FRISCO SAL Susanna Foster Turhan Bey M—94 mins. (Rev. 2/16/45)	
Mar. 10	THE CRIME DOCTOR'S COURAGE Warner Baxter Hillary Brooke D	THIS MAN'S NAVY Wallace Beery James Gleason D—100 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/4/45)		DOUBLE EXPOSURE Chester Morris Nancy Kelly D—63 mins. (4415) (Rev. 12/21/44)			(Third Block) WHAT A BLONDE Leon Errol Elaine Riley C—71 mins. (511) (Rev. 1/29/45)			SUDAN (Color) Maria Montez Jon Hall Turhan Bey D (Rev. 3/1/45)	ROUGHLY SPEAKING Rosalind Russell Jack Carson D—117 mins. (412) (Rev. 1/26/45)
Mar. 17	A GUY, A GAL AND A PAL Ross Hunter Lynn Merrick Ted Donaldson D	BETWEEN TWO WOMEN Van Johnson Lionel Barrymore D—81 mins. (518) (Rev. 12/21/44)	GI HONEY-MOON Gale Storm Peter Cookson D—70 mins. (406) (Rev. 3/1/45)			UTAH Roy Rogers George (Gabby) Hayes Dale Evans M—78 mins. (441)	THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE Dorothy McGuire Robert Young Herbert Marshall D—92 mins. (515) (Rev. 2/14/45)	CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE Lloyd Nolan Michael O'Shea D—67 mins. (519) (Rev. 2/15/45)	*IT'S IN THE BAG* *Jack Skirball Prod.* *87 mins.* *(Rev. 2/9/45)*		
Mar. 24	ROUGH RIDIN' JUSTICE Chas. Starrett Betty Jane Graham	NOTHING BUT TROUBLE Laurel and Hardy C—69 mins. (519) (Rev. 12/5/44)	DOCKS OF NEW YORK East Side Kids C—62 mins. (410) (Rev. 2/21/45)	(Fourth Block) BRING ON THE GIRLS (Color) Veronica Lake Sonny Tufts Eddie Bracken M—92 mins. (4416) (Rev. 2/19/45)		THE GREAT FLAMARION Eric von Stroheim Mary Beth Hughes D—78 mins. (412) (Rev. 1/23/45)	HAVING WONDERFUL CRIME George Murphy Pat O'Brien Carole Landis C—70 mins. (514) (Rev. 2/16/45)		*HOLD AUTUMN IN YOUR HAND* *Loew-Hakim Prod.*	THE HOUSE OF FEAR Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce D—69 mins.	HOTEL BERLIN Faye Emerson Helmut Dantine Raymond Massey D—98 mins. (413) (Rev. 3/2/45)
Mar. 31	ROUGH, TOUGH AND READY Victor McLaglen Chester Morris D—66 mins.				STRANGE ILLUSION Jimmy Lydon Warren William D—87 mins. (Rev. 2/21/45)		PAN-AMERICANA Phillip Terry Audrey Long Robert Benchley D—84 mins. (513) (Rev. 2/21/45)	THE SONG OF BERNADETTE Jennifer Jones Charles Bickford D—156 mins. (520) (Rev. 12/22/43)	*THE GREAT JOHN L* *Bing Crosby Prod.* *96 mins.* *SPELLBOUND* *Selznick International Prod.* *2000 WOMEN* *G. C. F. Prod.*		
April 6	ESCAPE IN THE FOG Otto Kruger Nina Foch D ROCKING IN THE ROCKIES Three Stooges Mary Beth Hughes O	KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY Lana Turner Laraine Day D—123 mins. (520) (Rev. 2/15/45)	THERE GOES KELLY Jackie Moran Wanda McKay C—61 mins. (422)	THE UNSEEN Joel McCrea Gail Russell Herbert Marshall D—81 mins. (4417) (Rev. 2/20/45)	CRIME, INC. Leo Carrillo Tom Neal D (Rev. 2/7/45)		BETRAYAL FROM THE EAST Lee Tracy Nancy Kelly D—82 mins. (512) (Rev. 2/19/45)	A ROYAL SCANDAL Tallulah Bankhead Anne Baxter William Eythe D—94 mins. (521)	*BEDSIDE MANNER* *Andrew Stone Prod.* *COLONEL BLIMP* *G. C. F. (Color)* *148 mins.* *(Rev. 6/9/43)*		
April 13	EVE KNEW HER APPLES Ann Miller William Wright		FASHION MODEL Robert Lowery Marjorie Weaver C—61 mins. (423)	SALTY O'ROURKE Alan Ladd Gail Russell D—100 mins. (4418) (Rev. 2/23/45)	SHADOWS OF DEATH Buster Crabbe O (Rev. 1/25/44)		(Special Release) THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW Edward Robinson Joan Bennett D—99 mins. (582) (Rev. 10/10/44)	MOLLY AND ME Gracie Fields Monty Woolley C—76 mins. (522)		I'LL REMEMBER APRIL Gloria Jean Kirby Grant M—64 mins.	GOD IS MY CO-PILOT Dennis Morgan Andrea King D—89 mins. (414) (Rev. 2/21/45)
April 20	THE POWER OF THE WHISTLER Richard Dix Janis Carter D RETURN OF THE DURANGO KID Charles Starrett Tex Harding O		CRAZY KNIGHTS Billy Gilbert Maxie Rosenbloom C—63 mins. (421) (Rev. 1/15/45)	HIGH POWERED Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4419) (Rev. 2/21/45)	HOLLYWOOD AND VINE James Ellison Wanda McKay C		(Special Release) IT'S A PLEASURE International (Color) Sonja Henie Michael O'Shea 90 mins (584) (Rev. 2/27/45)	(Re-Release) CALL OF THE WILD Clark Gable Loretta Young D—81 mins. (523) (Rev. 4/27/35)		SONG OF THE SARONG William Gargan Nancy Kelly C	

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 15-21

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 15-21

VOL. 57. NO. 47 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1945 | TEN CENTS

10 Films Are Above Average In 17 Cities

'Tree Grows in Brooklyn' Is Outstanding Grosser

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

"A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," in outstanding initial weeks in three theatres in Los Angeles and in one each in Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, leads for the first time in MOTION PICTURE DAILY's reports of estimated box office receipts from 17 key cities, excluding New York City, for the week ending March 8. The reports indicate that the midnight curfew has had some effect on theatre receipts in several of the cities covered, especially where customary Saturday late shows have been curtailed. The weather was mild and favorable in most sections of the country covered.

"To Have and Have Not," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "A Song to Re-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Stone Will Shoot With Video Camera

Andrew Stone, independent producer releasing through United Artists, disclosed here yesterday, prior to his return to the Coast last night, that he is working on a plan to use a television camera at the same time that he is shooting with a standard camera on his next production.

Stone will continue to deliver two pictures a year, he said. "Petticoat Lane," a remake of a two-reeler which he made in 1926, will be the first feature in 1945, budgeted between $800,000 and $900,000, and will start in June, while "Panamerican

(*Continued on page* 8)

Mullin with Pinanski On Seventh War Loan

Martin J. Mullin, leader of the industry's War Activities Committee in New England, is now at Seventh War Loan WAC headquarters in New York, working with his business partner, Samuel Pinanski, national chairman of the Seventh drive for the industry.

Pinanski has also appointed Mullin New England regional chairman for the Seventh War Loan, and he will be exhibitor state chairman for Massachusetts.

Raw Stock Shortage Costs U.A. Producer Deals, Bagnall Says

The critical raw stock situation with which United Artists is faced has caused the company to lose a distribution contract with Fred MacMurray and Leslie Fenton for one picture deals, and deals with others have been held in abeyance, George Bagnall, vice-president, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here yesterday. Bagnall is in New York from the Coast to attend a board of directors' meeting to be held within the next week or two. He will also participate unofficially in the second quarter raw stock allocation talks scheduled to be held in Washington on March 16. Edward C. Raftery, president, will officially represent UA in the absence of Gradwell Sears, sales vice-president, who is hospitalized, he said.

George Bagnall

Bagnall said that it was his understanding that MacMurray and Fenton have taken their deal to Columbia,

(*Continued on page* 7)

Sherwin Kane Named M. P. Daily Editor

Sherwin Kane, who has been the Executive Editor of *Motion Picture Daily* since May 14, 1943, has been named Editor, effective today.

Musicals for Sailors: Navy

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Musicals, comedies, dramas, mysteries. In that order, that is what the men in Navy service all over the world want and, since the same type of men are in the Army, it is probably what the doughboys, tankmen and paratroopers want, too; what they don't want is war pictures, according to a survey just completed by the Navy.

"If a show has good music, songs and dancing, it's tops," the Navy said, in reporting on the canvass. "If a show has laughs, it's tops. And, if it has music and laughs, it's a super-dooper."

A break-down of the gobs' preferences showed: Most men would like to have some of the outstanding pictures of recent years brought back so they could see them again (and the Navy is doing it); as between an outstanding old picture and a second-rate new one, they'll take the old one;

(*Continued on page* 11)

Red Cross 'Kick-Off' Set; N. Y. to 'Jump the Gun'

With a few days remaining before the start of the industry's 1945 Red Cross War Fund Week, March 15-21, theatres are just about set for special 'kickoff' activities to be followed by a week of events designed to spur Red Cross collections to a new high. Setting the pattern in inaugurating the drive, New York theatres will officially open Red Cross Week a day ahead with a parade Wednesday.

Two thousand uniformed Red Cross volunteers, 60 pieces of Red Cross motorized equipment and five service bands will participate. The parade will assemble at Schermerhorn Street and Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, at 11 A. M. At Borough Hall it will be reviewed by N. Peter Rathvon, Red Cross national industry chairman; Fred Schwartz and Samuel Rinzler, state chairmen; Harry Mandel and S. Barret McCormick, national directors of publicity; Major L. E. Thompson,

(*Continued on page* 7)

Allow Wage Cuts at Curfew-Hit Houses

Washington, March 8.—The National War Labor Board today authorized theatres and other places whose hours of operation have been curtailed by the midnight curfew to make "reasonable and equitable" wage adjustments. Regional WLB boards were instructed to allow such adjustments. If any board agency is of the opinion that a general authorization for any specific group to make adjustments without prior approval of the WLB is necessary, request for such permission shall be sent to the executive director and will be answered within 48 hours, it was promised.

Curfew Alters Theatre Habits Says Kingsberg

'Long-Term Dislocations With Adverse Results'

The Byrnes midnight curfew is tending to disturb established film theatre attendance habits of theatregoers and might eventually have a long-term adverse effect, Malcolm Kingsberg, vice-president and treasurer of RKO Theatres told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here yesterday.

Malcolm Kingsberg

Kingsberg pointed out that reports indicate that not only has the curfew hit late Saturday business in both key runs and neighbor-

(*Continued on page* 11)

Suggest Dropping Theatre Stagehands

ST. LOUIS, March 8.—A recommendation that one stagehand be dropped from each of six St. Louis film theatres, has been made by special arbitrator Jules E. Kohn to the Regional War Labor Board in Kansas City, in the dispute between the American Federation of Labor and theatre owners here. The recommendations, which would reduce theatre payrolls $450 a week, suggests one stagehand be dropped at the Ambassador, Loew's State, Orpheum, Missouri and Shubert, first run houses, and at the Express. All but the Express now employ five stagehands; the Express has three. No reduction is recommended for the Fox Theatre, which employs six.

The arbitrator recommended that the number of stagehands employed in

(*Continued on page* 8)

Reviewed Today

Reviews of "Youth on Trial" and "Enemy of the Law" appear on page 10.

Personal Mention

NATE J. BLUMBERG, Universal president, will arrive in New York from Hollywood about April 1. This will be his usual Spring visit.

•

CARL H. CLAUSEN, of Paramount's home office advertising-publicity department, and MRS. CLAUSEN, yesterday announced the engagement of their daughter, GLORIA ANN, to LT. GEORGE W. KELLY, Army Air Force.

•

WILLIAM PIERCE, JR., advertising-publicity director for Lester Cowan Prod., will leave Hollywood by train this weekend for two weeks of business in New York.

•

SIDNEY BLUMENSTOCK, assistant exploitation manager of 20th Century-Fox, and EARL WINGART, assistant publicity manager, have returned to New York from Philadelphia.

•

HARRY M. KALMINE, Warner assistant general manager, left here yesterday on a trip to Pittsburgh, Charleston and Fairmont, W. Va.

•

JOHN W. HICKS, JR., Paramount International president, is expected to return to New York from California early next week.

•

CHARLES REED JONES, Republic advertising director, and EVELYN JONES celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary this week.

•

PRUDENCE DILLON, of E. K. O'SHEA's staff at M-G-M, will leave New York today for a Miami vacation.

•

WILLIAM HEINEMAN, general sales manager for SAMUEL GOLDWYN, left here last night for Detroit and Chicago.

•

JOE OPPENHEIM, manager of the Parkway, Chicago, is the father of a second son, PAUL GRAHAM, born Feb. 26.

•

JOSEPH H. SEIDELMAN, president of Universal International, returned to New York yesterday from Mexico.

•

AL DAFF, Universal International vice-president, will leave here today for a week's stay in Montana.

•

HAROLD F. COHEN, Monogram Southern exchanges special representative, is visiting New Orleans.

•

TOM COMERFORD, Comerford Theatres executive, is a patient in the Mercy Hospital, Scranton.

•

CLEM PERRY, J. J. Theatres general manager, has returned to New York from a vacation.

•

REX WILLIAMS, United Artists exploitation director, is on a trip to Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Memphis.

•

H. C. KAUFMAN of the Columbia sales department, is visiting Atlanta from New York.

Nick and Weston on Federal Parole

ST. LOUIS, March 8.—John P. Nick, former vice-president of the IATSE, and local 'boss' of theatre unions, and Clyde A. Weston, his business agent have been paroled from their five-year Federal prison sentences, it was learned here today.

Both were convicted under anti-racketeering laws. Nick was at Leavenworth prison and Weston at Terre Haute. The sentences had six months to run, with credit for good behavior. The men were found guilty in 1937 of extorting $6,500 from theatre owners on promises to drop demands for union wage increases.

Lunch for Ferguson On 21st Anniversary

William R. Ferguson, M-G-M director of exploitation, was given a surprise anniversary luncheon at the 21 Club, here, yesterday, on his 21st year with the company.

Participating were: Charles K. Stern, M-G-M assistant treasurer; Edward Carrier of the royalty department; Capt. Volney Phifer, special representative; Warren Slee of the Chicago exchange; Floyd Fitzsimmons, Albany; Jack Gilmore, Buffalo; Ed Gallner, Philadelphia, and Burt McKenzie, Boston.

Betty Lou Bandlow, second prize winner in M-G-M's "20-Year Anniversary Bathing Beauty Contest," will be guest today at a luncheon at the Astor Hotel to be attended by M-G-M home office executives, in addition to the five visiting field promotion men.

Zigmond Will Join Buchanan Agency

KANSAS CITY, March 8.—Jerry Zigmond, manager of the Newman, first run Paramount, here, for seven years, is leaving to join the Buchanan Advertising Agency, New York, which handles the Paramount account

Zigmond, however, will not join Buchanan at once; he has been given a leave of absence by Paramount to work on the Seventh War Loan drive, this activity to extend until the drive is over.

Zigmond has been head of the public relations department of the area War Activities Committee here since its organization. He has been with Paramount 18 years, almost all of that time as manager of theatres, in Kansas City, Denver and other Midwest and Western cities.

Ohio Crest Floods Louisville Theatres

CINCINNATI, March 8.—As the swollen Ohio River began to ebb from a crest of 69.2 feet here today, the peak of one of the Midwest's worst floods passed downstream to Louisville, where the auditoriums of two theatres, the Broadway and Park, were covered with water. Other houses there continued to operate.

Coming Events

Today—Monogram press luncheon, Warwick Hotel, New York.
Mar. 9-10—Warner sales meeting, New York home office.
Mar. 10—Deadline for filing draft deferment requests for essential workers.
Mar. 13-15—Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners' annual meeting of trustees, Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles.
Mar. 14—Universal's annual stockholders' meeting, Wilmington.
Mar. 15—Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' annual awards, Hollywood.
Mar. 15-21—Industry Red Cross 'War Fund' week.
Mar. 16—Industry Advisory Committee raw stock meeting with War Production Board, Washington.
Mar. 16—New York Building Code meeting, New York.
Mar. 26—Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America's annual board meeting, New York.
Mar. 29—Loew's annual stockholders meeting, New York.

Pal Coming Here To Talk Product

HOLLYWOOD, March 8.—George Pal, Paramount "Puppetoon" producer, will leave here for New York tomorrow to discuss next season's production activities with Oscar Morgan, Paramount short subjects sales manager, and other Paramount executives.

In addition to lining up the 1945-46 program of color "Puppetoons," Pal plans feature "Puppetoons" based on children's books, combining actors with his puppets in live action on which he has been working for some time. Pal also will confer with his foreign representative, Arthur Padron, recently arrived in New York from Europe, to make plans to reopen his own studios in Eindhoven, Holland, where Pal started before the war.

Bernerd Gets Mono. Producership Status

HOLLYWOOD, March 8.—With Jeffrey Bernerd converting his set-up from independent status to a straight studio producership, Monogram is moving toward a completely company-controlled policy. The recent acquisition of Philip Krasne's interest in the "Cisco Kid" and "Jimmy Wakely" series was a step in the same direction. Once taking product from 10 independent producers, Monogram is now utilizing only three outside sources: Banner Productions, King Brothers and James Burkett.

Arcady Boytler Hurt

MEXICO CITY, March 8.—Arcady Boytler, the Russian who began in Mexican pictures 20 years ago as an actor, now a producer, was seriously injured by an automobile here.

NEW YORK THEATRES

2ND WEEK
The Greatest Lode of Thrills in Town!
"THE BIG BONANZA"
starring
RICHARD ARLEN
ROBERT LIVINGSTON
JANE FRAZEE
with
George "Gabby" Hayes
A Republic Picture
First N. Y. Showing
REPUBLIC THEATRE
B'way, Bet. 51st & 52nd Streets

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. & 6th Ave.
RITA HAYWORTH
"TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT"
JANET BLAIR ★ LEE BOWMAN
A Columbia Picture in TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
'MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS'
Judy GARLAND
Margaret O'BRIEN
IN PERSON
VINCENT LOPEZ and ORCH.

Paramount presents
Veronica LAKE Sonny TUFTS
Eddie Bracken Marjorie Reynolds
"BRING on the GIRLS"
In Person
The Ink Spots
Ella Fitzgerald
Buck & Bubbles
Cootie Williams and his Orchestra
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Dick Powell
Claire Trevor - Anne Shirley
"Murder, My Sweet"
AN RKO RADIO PICTURE

SAMUEL GOLDWYN *Presents*
BOB HOPE
'THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE'
in Technicolor
Continuous Doors open 8:30 A.M.
ASTOR Broadway & 45th Street
Popular Prices

WALT DISNEY'S
'The THREE CABALLEROS'
in TECHNICOLOR
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
NOW - - - Brandt's GLOBE

BETTY SMITH'S
A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN
20th CENTURY-FOX PICTURE
ROXY *ON STAGE!* A GAY, SPRINGTIME REVUE
7th Ave. & 50th St.

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ONLY 20th CENTURY-FOX
COULD MAKE IT BIGGER
than the never-to-be-forgotten
"My Friend Flicka"
MARY O'HARA
Author of "MY FRIEND FLICKA"

MARY O'HARA'S

THUNDERHEAD

SON OF FLICKA

in Living TECHNICOLOR

RODDY McDOWALL

PRESTON FOSTER · RITA JOHNSON

Directed by

LOUIS KING

Produced by

ROBERT BASSLER

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A VAST PRE-SOLD AUDIENCE AWAITS ITS THRILLS . . .

Book-of-the-Month! More than half a million copies sold! 3,000,000 read it in McCall's! And 20th's ad campaign reaches 18,000,000 in national magazines!

An endless chain of Big Box-Office events ...in this MOST EVENTFUL year of

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ERNST LUBITSCH'S Crowning Comedy Triumph!

A ROYAL SCANDAL

BETTY SMITH'S World Premiere Engagement, Roxy, N. Y.!

A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN

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THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

A Box-Office Killing!

HANGOVER SQUARE

MOSS HART'S Gross-Soaring Everywhere!

WINGED VICTORY

KEEP SELLING BONDS!

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Bagnall Says Stock Halted U.A. Deals

(Continued from page 1)

which, as a producer, will make raw stock available to them.

"We have always operated on a close margin in printing," Bagnall said. "We don't make prints until we actually need them and consequently, we have been caught with five or six pictures which we can't print."

Observing that UA has been the "hardest hit of any company," Bagnall said that it is asking the War Production Board to change the present method of computing its stock allocation from the base year of 1941, when the company had its smallest number of pictures, to an average over a period of years. "UA is entitled to more footage," he declared, "as much proportionately as the other companies have."

Producers to Apply

Queried as to whether UA might not take advantage of the report in yesterday's MOTION PICTURE DAILY of a raw stock reserve pool of 10,000,000 feet for independents, Bagnall said that individual UA producers will undoubtedly make application for some of this footage.

United Artists planned to release from 20 to 25 films in 1945, Bagnall said. The company has a larger backlog than it has ever had; six pictures have been finished and delivered to UA, including "Delightfully Dangerous," "Brewster's Millions," "Hold Autumn in Your Hand," "It's in the Bag," "The Great John L." and "Bedside Manners." Almost completed and ready for delivery in the next few weeks are: "Spellbound," "Blood on the Sun," "Guest Wife" and "G. I. Joe." Pictures shooting, the UA vice-president said, are: "Paris Underground," "Captain Kidd" and "Young Widow."

Bagnall revealed that UA had been forced to cut down the number of release prints in order to make stock available for production purposes. Not much harm was done by this, he said, as it was possible to operate with fewer prints.

Bagnall, who arrived here this week, will return to the Coast in two weeks.

Hearings To Continue This Week and Next

HOLLYWOOD, March 8.—National Labor Relations Board trial examiner Maurice Nicoson said today that hearings in the jurisdictional dispute between Set Decorators Local 1421 and IATSE Local 44, which commenced yesterday, probably will consume the remainder of this week and part of next week.

Decorators' business manager Ed Mussa was the principal witness at today's session, devoted to outlining the duties performed by workers in the disputed field.

Variety Plans Socials

CHICAGO, March 8.—The Variety Club here has completed plans to stage Saturday socials every week for the balance of the Winter and Spring seasons. Arrangements are being made with local distributors to preview key films for members and guests, on the order of the recent screening of "A Song to Remember" at which Columbia was host.

Red Cross 'Kick-Off' Set; N. Y. to 'Jump the Gun'

(Continued from page 1)

executive coordinator; Leon J. Bamberger, campaign director; Oscar A. Doob, War Activities Committee; Edward C. Dowden, New York public relations chairman; Borough President John Cashmore, and Frank D. Schroth, publisher of the *Brooklyn Eagle* and chairman of the Brooklyn Red Cross chapter.

Walter (Red) Barber, chairman of the Greater New York Red Cross War Fund; Col. J. H. Bigley, executive director of the Brooklyn Red Cross chapter; and the local Brooklyn theatre committee will lead the parade. At Borough Hall, a contingent of soldiers from Fort Hamilton and Coast Guardsmen from Manhattan Beach will act as a guard of honor. A number of stars of screen and stage will join the reviewing party at Borough Hall.

Queens March 17

In Queens, on Saturday, March 17, the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce, cooperating with the War Activities Committee, will stage a Red Cross 'Parade of Stars,' with a show to follow in Jamaica Armory. Starting at 1:30 p. m., the Parade of Stars will proceed from Jamaica Avenue and Sutphin Blvd. to 168th Street and then to the Armory.

Latest report on the number of theatres pledged shows that 14,266, out of a possible 16,478, will participate, and that the list of 100 per centers in total theatres pledged, now includes Northern New Jersey, New Haven, Albany, Buffalo, Delaware, Rhode Island, San Francisco and Pittsburgh.

In Buffalo, Mayor Joseph J. Kelly has issued a proclamation for Red Cross War Fund Week in local theatres. Similar proclamations have also been issued by James A. Burke, president of the Borough of Queens; Edgar Nathan, Manhattan; James J. Lyons, Bronx; John Cashmore, Brooklyn; Joseph A. Palma, Richmond.

As the drive draws near, Rathvon, in a letter to all exchange area exhibitor chairmen and distributor chairmen, urges that everyone strive to have all theatres take collections, "no matter how small the town, how small the theatre, how few shows they run during the week, or how few dollars they might obtain.

"No exhiibtor should feel ashamed or hesitant about turning in a small collection report as long as he has done his best," added Rathvon.

Brooklyn Owners Meet

Brooklyn theatre representatives this week met with Red Cross volunteers who are to captain Brooklyn theatres during the drive to discuss its details. Edward C. Dowden, of Loew's, chairman of the Brooklyn Red Cross theatre committee, presided. Other theatre men present who spoke were: Edwin Gold and Manny Frisch, Randforce; Larry Grieb and Al Zimbalist, RKO; Myron Siegal, Century; Irving Ludwig, Rugoff and Becker; Ben Simon, Jay Burton and Sidney Kain, Loew's; Lou Levy, Fabian's Paramount.

Warner Red Cross Rally on March 15

A rally in behalf of the 1945 Red Cross drive will be held at the Warner home office next Thursday, March 15, under the joint auspices of the company, the Warner Club and the Office Employees' Union. The company will declare a recess at four P. M. to enable all employees to attend the rally, which is to be addressed by a wounded Marine from the South Pacific, a Red Cross girl of the European area, and a Warner official.

At the same time, the Red Cross will present a citation to Warner employees who have donated to the blood bank.

To Examine Hitchcock

A notice of motion to examine Alfred Hitchcock, director, before trial in New York Federal Court on Monday, was filed in that court yesterday by Sidney Easton, playwright, who is suing 20th Century-Fox for an injunction and an accounting on "Lifeboat," claiming the film, directed by Hitchcock, plagiarises the title of his play, "Lifeboat No. 13." Motion will be argued in court today.

'Souza' to Clasa-Mohme

HOLLYWOOD, Mar. 8.—Clasa-Mohme has acquired American and Mexican distribution rights to "O Brasileira Joao de Souza," produced by Robert Chutz for Cinex Films, Brazil, and brought here for showings by the Motion Picture Society for the Americas.

Dallas Owners Meet Today on RC Drive

DALLAS, March 8.—Chairmen of the various Red Cross committees for employee contributions among motion picture theatres and film companies in the Dallas area will hold a luncheon meeting tomorrow at the Variety Club, at which reports on pledges and money collected to date will be given.

Attending will be Don Douglas, general chairman for theatre men here; E. J. Solon and R. I. Payne, circuits; John Q. Adams, "big gifts"; James O. Cherry and Paul Scott, Dallas theatres; Don Dixon, independent theatres; F. W. Allen, allied firms; Fred Hansen, theatre equipment houses; Cecil House, exchanges.

Cinema Party April 14

CINCINNATI, March 8.—The Cinema Club has completed plans for a 'Cinema Night' at the local Variety Club on April 14, for members of both clubs and their guests. No date for installation of new officers has been set, it was announced by Rudolph Knoepfle, Republic salesman, president emeritus of the club, who recently was returned to the president's post.

Tom Barry to Albany

ALBANY, N. Y., March 8.—Tom Barry has been transferred by 20th-Fox from New York to Albany as head booker in the local exchange. He has been with the company for 15 years. Dan R. Houlihan, head booker and office manager here for eight years, is now a salesman.

11,000 Phila. Labor Draft on Monday

PHILADELPHIA, March 8.—Theatre and exchange labor, given a low priority rating by the War Manpower Commission, may be affected, beginning Monday, by a WMC plan to transfer 10,921 men from 'less essential' industry here into highly critical local war plants.

The program, involving male workers from 16 years of age, upwards, calls for them to be summoned into U. S. Employment Service offices and given as wide a war production job choice as possible. If they refuse, the USES will not give them certificates of availability, without which workers cannot be employed, until such time as they accept the transfer.

"Philadelphia is the first city in which such a plan has been adopted," a WMC spokesman said, adding, "This is not the same as the Allentown 'war-work-or-no-work' plan." The program was prepared after months of conferences among labor, industry, Federal, Selective Service and WMC officials. There is an overall need of 25,000 persons, including women, in the Philadelphia area," it was said.

Moley To Start as Blue Commentator

Raymond Moley, newspaper and magazine columnist, will start a series of weekly news commentaries on the Blue Network starting Sunday in what was indicated by Robert E. Kintner, network vice-president in charge of news, at a luncheon for Moley at the Hotel Waldorf Astoria here yesterday, as a network move to offset broadcasts by columnists with "conservative, conscientious, middle-of-the-road commentators."

Kintner emphasized that Moley will have the same freedom of expression as do the Blue's other commentators in the belief that the public is entitled to interpret the news in any way it sees fit.

Discussing plans for his weekly scripts, Moley pointed out that he intends to bring the same "objectivity" to his radio programs which he now employs in his colums both in newspapers and in Newsweek.

Conference Here on Films in Community

"The Role of Films in a Coordinated Community Program for Youth Service" is the subject of one of six round tables to be held at New York University, Saturday morning, March 17, as part of a two-day conference. The National Board of Review and the local Metropolitan Motion Picture Council, as two of the sponsoring organizations of the conference, have prepared a program related to the proposed New York State Program for Youth Service from which the conference stems.

The round-table chairman is Mrs. Bettina Gunczy, Secretary of the National Motion Picture Council.

3 Circuits Take Mono.

Three additional circuits have signed for Monogram's 1944-45 product. Circuits signed are Cumberland Amusement Co., Tennessee; Atlas Theatres, Denver; Evergreen Theatres, Oregon and Washington.

Stone Will Shoot With Video Camera

(Continued from page 1)

Sensations of 1946" will be budgeted at $1,500,000, and will get underway in the Fall.

The producer said that he is dickering for screen rights to a top stage play now playing on Broadway, but would not disclose its title. This will not be filmed, if acquired, until 1946, at which time he hopes to do "International Sensations of 1947."

By shooting his next film with a television camera, Stone said, he will have one of the first available television features. He is now working in conjunction with a television studio on the Coast on the method of approach. The question of union jurisdiction has entered the situation, he said, pointing out that the scales for a standard cameraman and a television cameraman are different.

Stone is also planning an all-colored revue on Broadway in the Fall, starring Cab Calloway, with Lena Horne and Bill Robinson as possibilities He has no plans to film the production. Ted Kohler, lyricist of "Stormy Weather," will do the lyrics.

Film Critic Crowther Addresses the SPG

"The Film Critic, the Public and the Publisher," was the subject of an address last night at the Hotel Piccadilly here by Bosley Crowther, motion picture critic of the *New York Times*, before a meeting of the Screen Publicists Guild.

Crowther discussed the necessity of the critic using his own judgment in reviewing films, but tempering that judgment with regard to the policy of the paper he is writing for, as well as the type of reader he had. "Critics cannot, and should not concern themselves with whether a film will be a hit at the box office, but must render an opinion using their own discretion, based on their public and the type of newspaper they write for," Crowther said.

'Wilson' in Spring at Advanced Admission

CHICAGO, March 8.—Jack Lorentz, Midwest manager for 20th-Fox, discloses that "Wilson" will be released in neighborhood houses this Spring at advanced amissions, to be sold on similar percentage terms as "The Song of Bernadette." The distributor will pay for the extra projectionist required by the local union of all theatres playing advanced admission films.

Most neighborhood exhibitors here had their first experience with an increased scale during the "Bernadette" run and in the majority of situations reported good business.

It is indicated that the "Wilson" dates will be tied in with the company's 30th anniversary celebration.

WABC Promotes Doyle

J. E. (Dinty) Doyle, manager of press information for radio station WABC, New York outlet of CBS, for the past two-and-one-half years, has been promoted to head a new department as director of special events, Arthur Hull Hayes, WABC general manager, announces. Doyle will devote all of his time to the station's war efforts.

Ten Films Score Above Average in 17 Cities

(Continued from page 1)

member" and "Here Come the Waves" are continuing to standout business in holdover engagements and five other films: "Music for Millions," "The Three Caballeros," "Destiny," "The Keys of the Kingdom" and "Ministry of Fear" are also above house averages in the cities reporting. The 17 cities are Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Toronto, Buffalo, Baltimore, Chicago, Philadelphia, Denver, St. Louis, Los Angeles, Omaha, Boston, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Cleveland and San Francisco. Cities in which post-midnight performances were given formerly and now have been eliminated because of the curfew include Milwaukee, Denver, Los Angeles, Buffalo, Kansas City, Chicago, Cleveland and San Francisco.

"A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" was a heavy $18,300 above house averages in three Los Angeles theatres despite the curfew and unfavorable weather conditions. It led by a wide margin with a big $10,500 above in Cincinnati which was almost double average for the theatre and it was a leader in Pittsburgh with $9,000 above.

"To Have and Have Not" soared to $26,500 above in reports from six theatres in Boston, Pitttsburgh, Philadelphia and St. Louis on holdover and moveover runs and in big initial weeks in Chicago and Toronto. It was a leader in Chicago with $10,000 above and an outstanding leader in Boston on a second week. It was big in an initial week in Toronto and in a third week in St. Louis.

St. Louis Outstanding

"Meet Me in St. Louis" in holdover weeks in 10 theatres in Omaha, Boston, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Toronto, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Chicago and San Francisco was still an outstanding grosser throughout the country with the indications being that neither curfew, unpleasant weather nor length of run are having any marked effect on the film's box office performance. It was as big in a second week in Chicago as it was in a first week. It was a heavy $15,00 above house averages in two Boston theatres in a second week. It continued big in a fifth week in Milwaukee; in a fourth week in Cincinnati, and in third weeks in Toronto, Buffalo and San Francisco.

"A Song to Remember," drawing twice as much as average in two theatres in Denver and staying up among the leaders in second weeks in two Los Angeles theatres despite the curtailment of performances due to the curfew, and bringing standout business in a seventh week in San Francisco, is proving to be another box office leader. It scored $26,200 above in the five theatres, bringing $39,000 in the two Denver theatres despite the effects of the curfew.

"Here Come the Waves," in big initial weeks in San Francisco, Cleveland and Indianapolis; in strong fourth weeks in two Los Angeles theatres; in third weeks in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and a second week in Buffalo brought a sturdy $17,100 above in the eight theatres.

"Music For Millions" was a leader in Kansas City in a first week and continued to draw heavy business in second weeks in Baltimore, Cleveland and St. Louis. It was $9,000 above in Kansas City despite the dropping of a Saturday midnight performance and collected $2,000 above both in Baltimore and Cleveland.

"The Three Caballeros" scored outstanding business in a second week in Boston and was also big in second weeks in Cincinnati and Buffalo. It brought moderate business in a second week with a stage show in Baltimore and in an initial week as a dual in Milwaukee.

"Destiny" was a satisfactory $5,400 above in reports from four theatres in Baltimore, Boston, Cincinnati and Chicago.

"The Keys of the Kingdom" was a leader in Milwaukee on an initial week and continued profitably in a third week in Toronto and a second week in Cleveland. "Ministry of Fear" drew good business in initial weeks in Baltimore and in Buffalo as a dual and continued profitably in an extended run in Philadelphia.

Others Profitable

"I'll Be Seeing You," "Objective Burma" and "Tonight and Every Night" are continuing to profitable business in extended holdover engagements. "I'll Be Seeing You" continued to draw heavy business in a third week in San Francisco. It was still drawing well in a fourth week in Cleveland, with moderate business being recorded in third weeks in Cincinnati and Philadelphia. "Objective Burma" drew $103,085 in eight theatres in Los Angeles, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Denver and Chicago, all on holdover runs. "Tonight and Every Night" drew big business as a dual in an initial week in Buffalo and continued to draw well in third weeks in four Los Angeles theatres as a dual.

"For Whom the Bell Tolls" on a return engagement at popular prices in Omaha, Denver and St. Louis drew its best business in the last mentioned city. "Practically Yours" brought good business on an initial week as a dual in St. Louis and moderate business in an initial week in Pittsburgh. "Belle of the Yukon" was profitable in a second week in Chicago.

"Murder, My Sweet" was profitable in an initial week in Cincinnati and drew moderate business in Indianapolis and St. Louis and in second weeks in Chicago and San Francisco. "Hangover Square" drew average business in an initial week in Milwaukee as a dual and in a second week in Baltimore. "Dark Waters" scored handsomely in an initial week in Philadelphia and was profitable on a moveover as a dual in Denver. "Here Come the Co-Eds" was satisfactory in an initial week in St. Louis as a dual and in a second week in Cincinnati.

'Gray' Grosses $85.000, New MGM Capitol Record

"The Picture of Dorian Gray" has set a new receipt record for M-G-M pictures playing the Capitol, New York, the company claimed here yesterday. The gross for the first week was said to be $85,000. M-G-M also claims a similar record for any of its films playing at the State, with "Meet Me in St. Louis" claimed to have grossed $45,000.

Suggest Dropping Theatre Stagehands

(Continued from page 1)

neighborhood theatres be retained. The unions involved are the St. Louis Theatrical Brotherhood Local No. 6, and the Motion Picture Machine Operators. The arbitrator's report makes the significant statement that, "The title stagehand, in the light of present duties is a misnomer because of changed conditions. These men have assumed and performed through the years new and additional duties. The job might be classified as theatre stagehand, carpenter, electrician, maintenance property man."

The theatres had contended the stagehands were unnecessary, and had sought to reduce the number to be employed. The ruling favors theatres in recommending that two shifts of stagehands be employed, one from eight A.M. to four P.M., the other from four P.M. to closing. This ruling was thought to enable employees to do maintenance work while the theatres were closed. About 41 neighborhood houses are affected by this report.

Kohn was named arbitrator last August, at which time the Labor Board retained jurisdiction of wage demands. The unions seek a 15 per cent raise which the theatres agreed to, if the number of stage hands is reduced.

Four Given New CBS Posts in Switches

New appointments by Columbia Broadcasting, here, include Paul Wittlig as studio supervisor of technical operations department; Albert R. Moore as assistant studio supervisor; Davidson Vorhes, assitant manager, and LaVerne Owens assistant to the manager of the sound effects division.

Wittlig replaces Vorhes in the department headed by Henry Grossman, director of technical operations for the network and Moore takes over the post previously held by Wittlig.

Vorhes replaces Max Uhlig in the division headed by Walter R. Pierson with Uhlig becoming supervisor of sound effects and production of the transcription division at Columbia Recording Corp.

28,571 Shares of 20th Common Sold

On the New York Stock Exchange yesterday, E. F. Hutton and Co. and Shields and Co. offered a block of 28,571 shares of common stock of 20th Century-Fox at 28⅜, less a commission to dealers of 50 cents a share. The offering was quickly oversubscribed. Bids were received for 34,870 shares and allotments were made on a basis of 94 per cent. The largest allotment was 8,810 shares and the smallest 30 shares. There were 251 purchases by 35 firms.

Huber in New Blue Post

E. J. 'Mike' Huber, formerly promotion manager of the Blue Network's Central division, has been named co-ordinator of advertising and sales promotion, Fred Smith, vice-president in charge of advertising, publicity and sales promotion, announces.

They all agree on Greer!

M·G·M's MISS GARSON IS THE TOPS!

The Gallup Poll has given the answer of America's millions of fans. In winning the Photoplay Medal (based on Gallup Poll) for the Screen's Most Popular Actress, M-G-M's beloved Greer Garson confirms by public acclaim the top position accorded her recently in the vote of Box-office Magazine's thousands of showmen. They voted her the Screen's Most Popular Star, male or female. Miss Garson has received more awards this year than any other actress!

P.S. GREER GARSON'S NEXT PICTURE, "VALLEY OF DECISION," IS HER BEST YET!

MGM

Red Cross Week—Mar. 15-21
Collect At Every Show!

Long Ones Longer, Shorts, Shorter

Long pictures are getting longer and more numerous and short pictures are getting shorter and fewer, a *Motion Picture Herald* survey of product released during the last three years will disclose today.

In 1942 only nine per cent of the total number of pictures released ran more than 100 minutes. In 1944, 15 per cent of the total product was in that bracket. Meanwhile, product running from 85 to 99 minutes in length was the same in 1944 as in 1942, and the number of pictures in the two smaller brackets, 70 to 84 minutes and 50 to 69 minutes, remained steady or showed a decline.

Heroes of Bastogne At War-Film Show

Brig. General Stewart E. Reimel, regional representative of the Army Service Forces, and two veterans of the Bastogne garrison in the "Battle of the Bulge" will speak at a press preview of the new War Department short subject, "The Enemy Strikes," here, on Monday, at Paramount's home office.

"The Enemy Strikes," produced by the Army Pictorial Service, tells the story of the von Rundstedt breakthrough last December, much of it told in captured German footage not previously released to the public. The film highlights the danger of enemy counter-attacks until the final day of victory and the importance of maintaining full war production.

Lt. Clair L. Hess, who will speak at the screening, was executive officer of his company at Bastogne. He assumed command during the battle when the company commander became a casualty.

Hickey Calls Four To District Meeting

San Francisco, March 8.—George A. Hickey, M-G-M's Western district manager, with headquarters in Los Angeles, will hold a meeting with four branch managers in his territory at the St. Francis Hotel, here, on March 19. Attending will be L. C. Wingham, local exchange head; Samuel J. Gardner, Los Angeles; Maurice Saffle, Seattle; Lou Amacher, Portland.

Carey in Air Series

Hollywood, March 8. — Harry Carey, star of Monogram's unreleased "China's Little Devils," will go on the air Saturday as the weekly host of a new Western series, "Western Theatre of the Air." Program goes out over KNX at 4:30 P. M., covering the entire CBS Pacific Coast network.

Re-Issue Westerns For Sale!
6 — JACK HOXIE WESTERNS — 6
Produced by Majestic. Excellent action pictures. Will sell domestic states-rights territories, foreign, and 16mm. Everything open. All Deals Exclusive.
SACK AMUSEMENT ENTERPRISES
FILM EXCHANGE BLDG., DALLAS, TEXAS
Owners of Negatives and World Rights

Reviews

"Youth on Trial"

(Columbia)

ANOTHER in the long line of modest-budget juvenile delinquency "shockers" has been turned out by Columbia in "Youth on Trial," which, while largely keeping within the confines of credibility, comes at a time when the public may be case-hardened toward this type of product. Producer Ted Richmond has assembled a competent group of younger actors; Michel Jacoby's screenplay has permitted them to speak some good lines that ring true, while director Oscar Boetticher, Jr., has handled his young charges with sympathy.

Story concerns the attempt of Mary Currier, juvenile court judge, to secure an appropriation to curb spreading juvenile delinquency in a typical American city. Thwarted by the city council, she arranges a raid on a favorite hangout of the teen-age set, where the offspring of some of the town's substantial citizens are picked up by the police. Her own daughter, Cora Sue Collins, escapes from the raid with David Reed, a rebellious youth, who by his boorish manner, succeeds in having both ostracized from the student body. Reed accidentally kills his father when caught looting his safe and is wounded when trapped by the police. Eric Sinclair is sincere as the upstanding boy friend from whom Miss Collins has temporarily strayed.

Running time, 59 minutes. General classification. Release date, Jan. 11.

CHARLES RYWECK

"Enemy of the Law"

(PRC)

DESPITE the paucity of such Western standbys as pursuits on horseback and expenditure of gunpowder, "Enemy of the Law" emerges as a considerably better-than-average 'horse opera' because of a plot that is more credible than usual and one that achieves a good deal of suspense. Tex Ritter and Dave O'Brien are the current stalwarts and Guy Wilkerson offers a brand of comedy that is engaging. Tex also does two sentimental ballads, Harry Fraser is to be commended for his screenplay, which might well serve as a model for this type.

Story has to do with efforts of O'Brien, a Texas Ranger, to detect Charles King, Jr., just released from prison in the act of unearthing a cache of Government gold which he stole and which he had not been recovered. Wilkerson is planted in the prison as a cellmate of King's prior to his release and they become friends. Considerable humor is obtained by the device of having King draw a map of where the gold has been buried, on Wilkerson's foot, unbeknown to that worthy. Others in the cast are Kay Hughes, Jack Ingram, Frank Ellis, Kermit Maynard and Henry Hall. Fraser also directed; Arthur Alexander produced.

Running time, 59 minutes. General classification. Release date, May 7.

C. R.

Meyer Sues Seven on Anti-Trust Charges

Omaha, March 8. — Four theatre corporations and three advertising firms have been named defendants in an anti-Trust suit in Federal Court here asking triple damages of $50,000. The defendants are accused of entering into exclusive contracts for the showing of film advertising on screens, thus allegedly barring Joseph Meyer of Omaha, doing business as the S. and M. Service, from showing his film advertisements. An injunction also is asked to refrain the defendants from future alleged violations.

The petition, filed by attorney J. J. Friedman, for Meyer, names as defendants the following: Film Co. of Colorado Springs; United Film Ad Service, Kansas City; Ray-Bell Films, St. Paul; Central States Theatres and Tri-States Theatres, Des Moines; Pioneer Theatres, St. Louis Park, Minn.; Griffith-Dickinson Theatres, Kansas City.

Raytheon Files

The Raytheon Manufacturing Co. of Newton, Mass., which recently filed an application with the FCC for the proposed new channel No. 1, 44 to 50 mc. in New York City, has requested permission to operate on the same channel in Chicago.

First Western Dubbed

Hollywood, March 8.—Monogram has completed dubbing of "Law of the Valley," said to be the first Western to be dubbed in Spanish in the United States.

Reagan, Gillham Discuss 'Susan'

Atlanta, March 8. — Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, at the company's regional sales meeting at the Biltmore Hotel, here, today, disclosed releasing plans for "The Affairs of Susan," first Hal B. Wallis production for Paramount. The film will have its world premiere at the Rivoli Theatre, New York, on March 28, followed by premieres in five or six situations. Following this the picture will be released day-and-date on Decoration Day to 150 to 200 theatres.

A campaign "using every channel of advertising, publicity and exploitation" will be used for the New York premiere, it was revealed by R. M. Gillham, advertising and publicity director. Similar campaigns will be used in advance of all key openings.

Interstate Expands, Buys Two Theatres

Boston, March 8.—Interstate Theatre announces the acquisition of the Modern Theatre, Brockton, and the Randolph at Randolph, in line with an expansion policy.

The houses were acquired from Edward Kane of Brockton, and were formerly run by Morris Perlstein, who retired.

WHN's 23rd Birthday

New York radio station WHN, owned and operated by Loew's Inc., one of the pioneer stations, will mark its 23rd year Sunday, March 18.

Short Subject Review

"San Pietro"

(Army Pictorial Service)

This 30-minute short subject is a grim, but stirring, tribute to the foot soldier—the man in the ranks—and what modern war means for him. It was produced by the Army Pictorial Service of the Signal Corps under supervision of Col. Frank Capra and was photographed under battle conditions under direction of Major John Huston who was assisted by Capt. Jules Buck. Huston wrote the narration and also delivers it, in understatement and with considerable effectiveness.

The Battle of San Pietro was minute in the total pattern of war and the Italian campaign. This small town, however, was the archstone of the entrance to the important Liri Valley. Its surrounding topography made the assault difficult and resulted in vicious fighting, punctuated by heavy losses for our side. How the campaign was developed, the changing strategies used as the flow and ebb of battle shifted make up the footage. Dimitri Tiomkin wrote the musical score, the Army Air Forces orchestra recorded it and voices of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and children's choir of St. Brendan's Church are heard in rich cadence.

Distribution has not been determined, but the film, one of the best to come out of the conflict, will be released to theatres.

Rodgers Sets Four Trade Show Dates

Trade-showing dates for three new M-G-M pictures have been set by William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager. "The Clock" will be screened in all exchange areas on March 21; On the following day, "The Picture of Dorian Gray" will be shown in all territories except New York and Los Angeles, which held screenings on Feb. 23; "Without Love" will be shown March 26 in all areas, including New York, where a previous screening was held March 8.

Ritz, Here, Sold

The Ritz Theatre, on West 48th Street, near Broadway, here, which is occupied under lease by WJZ as a broadcasting studio, has been sold by the heirs of the late Hattie Hill to Simon Brothers. It is assessed at $340,000, of which $210,000 is land value, and was acquired free and clear of mortgage.

EXPERIENCED MANAGER
Theater distribution experience. Excellent starting salary and per diem. Will be required to cover limited number of branch cities as District Manager for a national inspection company. Give full experience, background, and complete references. Must be available immediately.
Box 247
MOTION PICTURE DAILY
New York

Curfew Changing Theatre Habits

(Continued from page 1)

hood theatres, but weekday business is also off as much as 10 per cent as a result of dislocations caused by the curfew upon attendance habits. Kingsberg believes that many persons are now staying away from theatres rather than attempt to hurry their dinner-hour and reach a theatre a few minutes before the start of the last show, now advanced, with the possibility that they might have to stand and or even miss part of the final show.

Kingsberg anticipates a growing trend toward single features as the curfew continues, as well as a demand for curtailment in the length of features. While it is the obligation of theatres to provide as much entertainment value as possible for the price of admission, Kingsberg declared it is also necessary that as many as possible attend. Double-features and over-long features curtail turnover, he explained.

Business Off 20%

Neighborhood and key city business was off as much as 20 per cent in RKO theatres last Saturday night where late shows were previously given, Kingsberg said.

Elsewhere it is learned that the tendency of downtown first-run theatres here and in many other places to conclude nightly performances at the same hour is creating a serious burden on transportation facilities, and some circuit executives point out that patrons who will not become involved in downtown midnight crowds are patronizing neighborhood theatres, with other executives pointing out that many are remaining in their homes instead of going to any theatre.

Kingsberg is one who believes that some regular business is now being lost to theatres from those staying home and adds that if this trend continues both potential and actual business will be lost by theatres as a direct result of the curfew.

Goldberg Signs for Video for Australia

Frank Goldberg, Australian advertising official, has signed a priority contract with Allen B. DuMont Laboratories, for the first television transmitter to be installed in Australia, Herbert E. Taylor, director of transmitter equipment sales for DuMont, announces, here.

Goldberg is founder and governing director of Goldberg Advertising, Ltd., agency with five offices in Australia, four in New Zealand and a number of associate houses in England, South Africa, India and the United States.

Cagney Delays Trip

William Cagney, president of Cagney Prod., originally scheduled to arrive in New York from the Coast early this month, has postponed his trip until the end of March because of a delay in printing "Blood on the Sun," which United Artists will distribute. While here, Cagney will confer with James Mulvey, who handles rental contracts for Cagney, and is expected to bring a print of the new picture with him.

Musicals for Sailors: Navy

(Continued from page 1)

happy endings are preferred; favorite choice: any Bob Hope or Bing Crosby picture; pictures in Technicolor are highly enjoyed; short subjects are preferred to old newsreels. And—they like girls.

But it's thumbs down hard on war pictures with manufactured heroics, although the men will take a picture with a war theme; also on the unwanted list are propaganda pictures, morbid or unhappy endings, poor Westerns and out-of-date newsreels—these men currently are engaged in making news, hot news.

Nowhere throughout the world did the war picture get a welcoming hand. Men in the Pacific showed the most animus, while from those in the Caribbean came a less vehement, but still unfavorable, reaction. In the United States, men still at a Naval air station, with overseas service still ahead of them, showed only a mild reaction against war pictures, but men at a Naval hospital, who had their stomachs full of it, refused them at any price.

Cartoons Score

In the field of short subjects, cartoons and comedies got more votes than all other types combined, cartoons showing up two and one-half to one and comedies one and one-half to one over musicals, the next in line, which was followed by sports, novelties, community sings and documentaries, in the order named.

To find out what the men on the far-flung battle lines thought of its motion picture service, the Navy Bureau of Personnel made three surveys in the Pacific area, covering the New Guinea stations at Ladava, Gamadodo and Finschhafen; three in the Caribbean, at Guantanamo Bay, at Naval operating, Marine Corps and Naval air stations; and others among ships in the Atlantic Fleet and at the Naval air station at Anacostia, D. C., and the national Naval medical center at Bethesda, Md.

Horn Donates for Son

ALBANY, N. Y., March 8.—Arthur Horn, M-G-M salesman, made his 10th blood donation in memory of his son. The latter, a doctor with the rank of lieutenant in the Air Corps, was killed in the South Pacific in August, 1943. Horn, who has appointed himself an unofficial one-man committee to recruit donors among employees of the industry in Albany, went to the 'Blood Bank' with Edward Susse, M-G-M office manager, and Bennett Goldstein, booker.

Crescent Gets Site

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., March 8.—Crescent Amusement Co. has acquired property here for the construction of a new 1,500-seat theatre as soon as materials are available, it was announced by Fritz Thomas, local Crescent manager.

Ask Good Friday Closing

PHILADELPHIA, March 8.—The Good Friday Observance Committee has asked all theatres, taprooms and other places to remain closed from noon until three P. M. on that day.

Defections Weaken Mexico Film Union

MEXICO CITY, March 8.—Only those sections representing workers in exhibition are still incorporated in the National Cinematographic Industry Workers Union, once powerful film union, which has diminished greatly in importance because many sections have left as affiliates.

When Fidel Velazquez, secretary general of the Confederation of Mexican Workers, Mexico's strongest labor organization, permitted section two, consisting of studio and laboratory workers and technicians to withdraw and form its own organization, he hit the picture union a near death-blow. Immediately, sections seven, 45 and 47, composed of scenarists, adapters and directors, quit and joined section two. The players left last Summer as the result of a row. Although the various sections have left the fold of the film union, they still belong to the Confederation.

NBC to Televise Iwo Film Sunday

Newsreel pictures of the landings of the American Marines on Iwo Jima Islands in the Pacific will be telecast by National Broadcasting's New York television station, WNBT, here, Sunday, as part of a 90-minute network telecast which will also be telecast by General Electric's Schenectady station WRGB and will feature, in addition, three ballets by Leonide Massine, a fashion show by Gimbel Brothers and the final episode of A. A. Milne's "The Perfect Alibi."

The newsreel, titled "The War As It Happens" was edited and will be presented by Paul Alley, NBC television newsreel editor. Footage made abailable to NBC by the War Department is the same as that given to the newsreels, which are releasing approximately 1,000 feet in their issue out today.

Ford Is Slated As Bernstein MOI Aide

Richard Ford, former British Information Service film head here and in Washington, is slated to become assistant to Sidney Bernstein of the British Ministry of Information, and will leave shortly for England, the BIS has said here. Ford's duties among other things, will be to collect information on production and distribution of official and Allied films in liberated Europe.

Nevile Gardiner, Washington film officer for BIS, also will leave shortly for England, where he will confer with officials in the film division.

To Honor Kranze

CLEVELAND, March 8.—Bernard Kranze, RKO district manager, will be honored by local exhibitors during the week of April 13-19, which has been set aside as 'Bernard Kranze Appreciation Week.' Goal is an RKO picture in every theatre during that week.

Another 'E' for Du Mont

Allen B. DuMont Laboratories has been awarded its second Army-Navy production award, Dr. Allen B. DuMont, president of the company announces.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, March 8

TED DONALDSON will be starred by Columbia in "Rusty," story of a boy and a dog; Leonard Picker is slated to produce, and George Sherman to direct. . . . Dennis O'Keefe has been signed by William Goetz to appear opposite Sonja Henie in the forthcoming International picture, "Countess of Monte Cristo."

•

Marie McDonald has been selected for one of the supporting roles in Hunt Stromberg's "Young Widow," which William Dieterle is directing. . . . Randall Faye has been signed by Republic to write the screenplay for an ice-musical, to be called "Winter Wonderland." . . .

•

John Payne and June Haver will co-star in the forthcoming 20th Century-Fox production "Riocabana," which William Le Baron is scheduled to produce. . . . Universal has exercised its option on producer-director George Waggner and actor Charles Korvin. . . . Gloria Marlen will play the feminine lead in "Here Comes Trouble," next Monogram comedy co-starring Billy Gilbert, Shemp Howard and Maxie Rosenbloom.

•

Lane Watson has been given a new contract by International Pictures. . . . Trudy Marshall has been added to the cast of "Dragonwyck," now before the cameras at 20th Century-Fox. . . . Lois Collier and Jess Barker are set for the romantic leads in Universal's "Serenade for Murder." . . . Eddie Kane and Sam Flint have been added to the cast of the Republic Roy Rogers' starrer, "The Man from Oklahoma."

•

Dick Haymes and June Haver will co-star in the 20th Century-Fox version of O. Henry's famous story, "Gift of the Magi"; the feature will be a musical, in color, and Otto Preminger is slated to produce and direct. . . . Dorothy Malone has been selected for a lead in "The Adventures of Don Juan," Warner film.

•

Paramount producers Pine and Thomas are planning a picture about California loggers, titled "Redwood Highway"; Robert Lowery will be starred. . . . Rosa Hunter has had his Columbia contract renewed. . . . Alexis Smith gets one of the top leads in Warners' "The Two Mrs. Carrolls." . . . Gladys Cooper has signed a new contract with M-G-M.

•

Red Cristie, long an assistant director at Universal, has been promoted to an associate producership, and will work under Felix Jackson on the Deanna Durbin starrer, "Lady on a Train." He replaces Frank Shaw, who is going over to join Frank Ryan on Universal's filmization of the Pirandello play, "As It Was Before," in which Merle Oberon and Charles Korvin have the leads.

•

Paramount has exercised its option on Katina Paxinou. . . . Republic has signed the dancer, Estrellita, for a top part in "Mexicana." . . . Lambert Hillyer will direct "The Lost Trail," Monogram Western to star Johnny Mack Brown, with Raymond Hatton.

Romance

Beautiful Girls

Top Orchestra

EARL CARROLL VANITIES

Comedy

Starring

Dennis O'KEEFE • Constance MOORE

featuring EVE ARDEN with

OTTO KRUGER • ALAN MOWBRAY

STEPHANIE BACHELOR

and

PINKY LEE • PARKYAKARKUS • LEON BELASCO

BEVERLY LOYD • EDWARD GARGAN

and

WOODY HERMAN and his ORCHESTRA

Directed by JOSEPH SANTLEY

Screen Play by FRANK GILL, JR.

Based on Original Story by CORTLAND FITZSIMMONS

A Republic Picture

Hit Tunes

Novelty Numbers

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 15-21

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 15-21

VOL. 57. NO. 48 NEW YORK, U. S. A., MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1945 TEN CENTS

Would Revive British Video Under B B C

Government Group Asks Films to Support Plan

LONDON, March 11.—The Hankey Television Committee, set up by the British Government about a year ago, has recommended television service resumption as soon as possible after the war—still exclusively under the British Broadcasting Corp.

In view of the impracticability of conducting certain necessary experiments and the urgent necessity of resuming service quickly, the committee suggests using the 405-line definition, as in pre-war days, pending fundamental improvement of facilities.

The plan calls for central diffusion from London, as in the past, but with transmission to six rediffusion provincial stations, with domestic users

(*Continued on page* 7)

House Mulls Stiff Bill

WASHINGTON, March 11. — The House tomorrow is expected to send the manpower legislation to a conference committee, encouraged by a demand by President Roosevelt Friday for a strong law which is interpreted as supporting its work-or-jail version, over the much milder measure passed by the Senate.

Study of the two measures shows that the House bill will most strongly

(*Continued on page* 11)

Senft Will Again Head Cinema Lodge

Albert A. Senft, head of Sterling Sign Co., has been nominated for reelection as president of Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith, along with all present officers. Election and installation will be held at the Hotel Astor, here, Tuesday evening, March 27.

Three new vice-presidents have been nominated. They are Jack H. Levin,

(*Continued on page* 10)

British Weigh Using PCA

LONDON, March 11.—The British Film Producers Association will give consideration in the near future to arrangements for the submission to the Hays organization of all scripts, in advance of production, of films regarded as likely to merit exhibition in America, it was learned today.

The arrangements were discussed at a preliminary meeting between F. W. Allport, London representative of the MPPDA, and E. W. Wingrove, secretary of the BFPA.

This move by the Association follows the issuance by J. Arthur Rank last month of instructions to all of his producers to submit their working scripts to the MPPDA office here, prior to shooting, with a view to avoiding conflict with the American Production Code Administration standards.

Michigan Bill for Municipal Taxes

LANSING, March 11. — Theatre owners throughout Michigan are vitally concerned over a measure introduced in the legislature here last week which would authorize municipalities throughout the state to enact special or excise taxes.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Espie,

(*Continued on page* 11)

Curfew Ends Jobs For Operators

Chicago, March 11. — Reduced hours of operation have caused the dismissal of projectionists at several Loop theatres here which used to run late shows or operated all night. The curfew has also caused considerable cutting in the booking of short subjects, due to shortened performances; in some cases the short subject cancellations have reached as much as 20 per cent.

500 Attend Studio Unions Mass Meet

HOLLYWOOD, March 11.—An estimated 500 film workers attended a mass meeting tonight at Hollywood Legion Stadium, called by Conference of Studio Unions president Herbert Sorrell to explain publicly the issues in the jurisdictional dispute between Set Decorators Local 1421 and IATSE Local 44. An invitation to attend was extended all members of all unions via posters displayed in all studios.

Sorrell and others spoke on a number of disputes in progress between various labor groups, declaring the purpose of the meeting was to make sure everybody who might be affected by a strike, if called, would understand the causes.

Increase in Licensing of Cartoon Reproductions

The dollar value of merchandise licensed to use the likenesses of animated characters and film stars has remained stable during the war, despite shortages of paper, metals and other materials, and Walt Disney, Leon Schlesinger and the many syndicates which have handled such licensing anticipate an increase in that business now that foreign markets are being reopened.

The dollar value of merchandise using Walt Disney cartoon characters, which have always led the field, continues between $25,000,000 and $30,000,000 annually despite the war, and a further increase is anticipated with the reopening of foreign markets and in the post war, Kay Kamen, who has handled the licensing of products for Disney for the past 12 years, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here. Disney receives royalties on all of the merchandise. Kamen recently returned from Mexico and reports extensive increases in the sale of products specifically bearing imprints of the characters in "The Three Caballeros."

Anticipating a considerable expansion in this type of business, Warners recently established a short subjects 'by-products' department, headed by Leon Schlesinger, former producer of "Looney Toons" and other cartoons.

Newspaper syndicates have taken a cue from film companies and are now setting deals for the cartoon characters they control. A deal was recently set by Noel Meadow on behalf of the producers of the Broadway play "Harvey" to merchandise the image of the 'imaginary' rabbit.

Merchandise using the imprints of film cartoon characters includes toys, jewelry, soaps, school supplies, clothes, novelties and candy.

Stock Curbs Halt Release Of Many Films

Companies Are Forced to Overhaul Their Schedules

Several distributors have been forced to delay general release of at least a dozen and a half films scheduled for this month alone because they have already used up their first quarter War Production Board raw stock allocations, a check-up by MOTION PICTURE DAILY reveals. However, companies have in some instances been able to make prints for special advance engagements.

RKO Radio and Columbia have been forced to set back the release of four films each; Universal and PRC, three each; United Artists has not scheduled a single release since early

(*Continued on page* 7)

Curb of Stock Hurts 'Labs'

Film processing laboratories in New York, which do most of the release printing for the film companies, are faced with a drastic work curtailment until April 1 since most of the companies have already used up War Production Board raw stock allocations for release prints for the first quarter of 1945.

WPB regulations prevent the com-

(*Continued on page* 10)

Catholic Charities Committee Named

Personnel of the motion picture committee of the 1945 Catholic Charities committee has been announced by John J. O'Connor, chairman, as follows:

Bert Sanford, vice-chairman; Jack

(*Continued on page* 10)

Reviewed Today

Reviews of "Brewster's Millions" and "Utah" appear on page 10.

Personal Mention

C. MERVIN TRAVIS, executive secretary for the Motion Picture Society for the Americas, entrained Friday from Hollywood for San Francisco en route to New York and Washington on business conferences that will last several weeks.

•

B. V. STURDIVANT, Fox West Coast executive, and JOSEPH BLUMENFELD, co-owner of Blumenfeld Theatres, Inc., have been elected directors of the Market Street Association of San Francisco.

•

MRS. JOHN W. MANGHAM, wife of JOHN MANGHAM, Film Classics Southeast president, has returned to Atlanta from a trip to Tampa and Miami.

•

IRIS BARRY, curator of the Museum of Modern Arts Film Library, returned to New York Friday from Hollywood.

•

MARIE LOUISE VAN SLYKE of International Pictures publicity staff, returned to New York Friday from New England.

•

LT. (J.G.) CHARLES LOUIS CASANAVE, JR., USN, has married BERNICE ELAINE BREWSTER, of Woodbridge, New Jersey.

•

LT. GERALD J. SCHNITZER, son of EDWARD SCHNITZER, United Artists Western sales manager, arrived in New York yesterday from Texas.

•

JOE ROBERTS of Vanguard Films publicity staff is on a tour of Eastern cities.

•

CHARLES LEVY, Walt Disney Productions Eastern publicity head, is on a Midwestern tour.

•

EUGENE SICHELMAN, Columbia home office representative, is visiting Atlanta.

•

R. L. MCCOY, Warner Southern manager, is visiting New York from Atlanta.

•

EMORY AUSTIN, M-G-M press representative, is vacationing in Oklahoma.

•

CARL NEDLEY, M-G-M Salt Lake City manager, has returned there from from a trip to Montana.

•

GIFF DAVISON, RKO Salt Lake City manager, has returned there from Butte.

•

JOE SOLOMAN, United Artists salesman in Salt Lake City, has returned to his home following hospitalization.

•

PAUL SHIELDS, Cinema Artists Corp. executive, has arrived in Hollywood from New York.

•

WILLIAM GLEICHER, of the M-G-M sales department, will leave New York for the Coast today.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

THE assertion by Robert L. Wright, Assistant U. S. Attorney General, at the consent decree hearing before Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard in New York last week, that he would move to have the consent decree set aside in the event the court rules against the Government on the technical point of admitting arbitration decisions as evidence of alleged violations of law by the consenting companies, had the effect of raising a lot of eyebrows in and out of court.

The effect of such an action, should the Government prove successful (and that would appear to be extremely unlikely at this point), would be to eliminate the industry's arbitration machinery, for the arbitration provisions of the decree are essentially the only provisions which remained operative after the expiration of the decree's three-year trial period about a year and a half ago.

Thus, the inference might be drawn that the Government, in giving its approval to industry arbitration, could have done so with the hope or intent that arbitration awards and appeal board decisions which would ensue, eventually would comprise an accumulation of evidence to be used against the consenting companies to prove violations of law. Else why should the Government now demonstrate its desire to make such use of arbitration decisions?

•

The inference might also be drawn that, because of its presently demonstrated views on arbitration within the industry, the Government has been far less interested in exhibitor grievances and in providing the means for resolving such grievances than it has been in pursuing a test of some pet economic theory, such as making little ones out of big ones.

The fact that the Government is relying entirely upon appeal board decisions to obtain an injunction against the granting of clearance to theatres charging substantially the same admission price raises the suspicion that such was the Government's purpose from the outset. The fact that it has stated in court that it intends to scrap arbitration if it cannot be used for that purpose, strengthens the suspicion.

Little wonder that exhibitors all over the country are losing or have lost interest in the Government's proceedings either for an amended consent decree or a trial of the original anti-trust suit. The Government, apparently pursuing an economic will-o'-the-wisp through the legal underbrush, quite obviously has left the exhibitor who hoped to feast on red meat from the hunt in his characteristic position of providing his own fare.

• •

The brief of the Conference of Independent Exhibitors as *amicus curia* in support of the Government action for the elimination of clearance is quite an amazing document and should be read either out of curiosity or for the extension of one's knowledge of human nature by all who have the time to devote to it.

The document reviews the history of the Government case, excoriates the defendants and, in much that it says and charges, outraces the Government in support of the latter's arguments for elimination of clearance. Then, in conclusion, it argues for the retention of clearance. Clearance, it declaims, is good for independent exhibitors. Only the largest circuits should be deprived of it.

• •

The subject of *amicus curia*, incidentally, provided the best laugh of the entire hearing in Judge Goddard's court.

Morris Ernst, the dynamo of literate law, was petitioning the court's permission to file a brief for the Society of Independent M. P. Producers as *amicus curia*. That reminded John W. Davis, attorney for Loew's, of a story.

It seems in law school a puzzled student wanted to know what an *amicus curia* was. It is a form of animal life one step above the amoeba, he was told.

• •

An industry traveler just returned from Florida's sunny expanses reports the presence of the greatest number of exhibitors there this Winter within the memory of the oldest settlers. Dotting the golf courses, the beaches, the promenades and fishing grounds, their gleaming lobster red or moroccan tan exteriors are to be glimpsed at every turning.

"Looks like they're doing their worrying in Technicolor this season," the traveler observed.

New England Owners Elect W. E. Mitchell

BOSTON, March 11.—At the annual meeting of Independent Exhibitors of New England, the following officers and directors were elected: Walter E. Mitchell, president; E. Harold Stoneman, first vice-president; Warren Nichols, second vice-president; Kenneth Forkay, secretary; W. L. Bendslev, treasurer.

Mitchell appointed the following to the executive committee: Nathan Yamins, chairman; Frank Boscketti, J. E. Charbonneau, Richard Flora, Allard M. Graves, Fred J. Greene, Francis C. Lydon, Joseph Mathieu, Daniel Murphy, Francis M. Perry, Marris Pouzzner, George Ramsdell, Samuel Resnik, Philip Smith, Meyer Stanzler, William A. Viano.

Republic Field Men To Studio Confabs

NEW ORLEANS, March 11.—Leo V. Seicshnaydre, local branch manager for Republic Pictures, has left here for Chicago to join a party enroute to the West Coast. Herbert J. Yates heads the party which includes five other company representatives: Merritt Davis, Southern division manager; Max Gillis, Eastern division; Will Baker, Midwestern division; Sam Seplowin, Central division; George Kirby, Cincinnati branch manager.

The trip was planned to give the six a survey of Republic's studio and production, and to consult on plans for Republic's coming 10th anniversary.

Seicshnaydre expects to return to New Orleans March 22 and to complete plans at that time for a press luncheon and preview of Republic's anniversary feature, "Flame of the Barbary Coast."

Selznick Has Astor, Capitol His Film

"I'll Be Seeing You," David O. Selznick's first production to reach Broadway since the closing of the deal by which he and Samuel Goldwyn obtained first call on the Astor Theatre's screen time, which formerly went to M-G-M, is scheduled to open at Loew's Capitol following the current run of "The Picture of Dorian Gray."

Selznick's "Spellbound," now nearing completion, will be his first entry at the Astor under his and Goldwyn's deal with the theatre's owners. Goldwyn's "The Princess and the Pirate," which inaugurated the Astor deal, is in its fifth week at the house.

John Smith, Pioneer Owner, Dead at 70

PHILADELPHIA, March 11.—Services were held here yesterday for John Smith, 70, pioneer exhibitor in the Northeast section of the city, and the father of Ulrick F. Smith, local Paramount branch manager, who died Tuesday in Episcopal Hospital after an illness of ten days.

In 1910, Smith opened his first house here, and he retired in 1929.

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This is the ad...

that heralded the beginning of a great boxoffice career! Now the prophesy is a FACT, with reports from all over the country... from every type of situation... backing up the claim that Selznick International's "I'll Be Seeing You" will establish itself as a top-grosser in the nation's theatres!

I'LL BE SEEING YOU • I'LL BE SEEING YOU

The Beginning . . .

(In Four of the Major Theatre Circuits)

1st LOEW SMASH ENGAGEMENT!

STATE THEATRE, CLEVELAND . . .

2 Top-Grossing Weeks and Then a Moveover!

1st WARNER TRIUMPH!

FOX THEATRE, PHILADELPHIA . . .

3 Great Weeks of Record Business!

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

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LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
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CARL LESERMAN, UNITED ARTISTS CORP
729 SEVENTH AVENUE

= ALBEE THEATRE CINCINNATI FIRST RKO HOUSE TO PLAY I'LL BE SEEING YOU TO THE MOST PHENOMENAL BUSINESS IN RECENT MONTHS WITH FIRST FOUR DAYS INDICATING RECORD FIRST WEEK. AUDIENCE REACTION EXCELLENT WITH ROGERS COTTEN TEMPLE GIVING GRAND PERFORMANCES. SELZNICK IS TO BE CONGRATULATED ON A PICTURE THAT IS HEADED TOWARD A TOP RUN THROUGHOUT THE RKO CIRCUIT. REGARDS HAROLD MIRISC

1st RKO TOPPER!

I'LL BE SEEING YOU • I'LL BE SEEING YOU • I'LL BE SEEING YOU • I'LL BE SEEING YOU • I'LL BE SEEING YOU

I'LL BE SEEING YOU • I'LL BE SEEING YOU • I'LL BE SEEING YOU • I'LL

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1945

Five Films Are Outstanding In Ten Cities

'I'll Be Seeing You' Is Top Honors Contender

THE BEST!

WESTERN UNION

QXL6 DL PD=SAN FRANCISCO FEB 15 12:05 A
DAVID O. SELZNICK, RKO PATHE STUDIOS
9336 WASHINGTON BLVD, CULVER CITY, CALIF.

= ONE OF MY GREATEST THRILLS IN SHOW BUSINESS CAME TONIGHT WHEN I
ATTENDED IN SAN FRANCISCO THE OPENING OF YOUR HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PIC-
TURE "I'LL BE SEEING YOU" WITH GINGER ROGERS JOSEPH COTTEN AND
SHIRLEY TEMPLE WHICH OPENED TO RECORD BREAKING BUSINESS IN OUR FOX
THEATRE. ALL-TIME GROSS AND ATTENDANCE RECORDS WERE SHATTERED. BASED
N FIRST DAYS BUSINESS YOUR PICTURE WILL BREAK ALL RECORDS FOR WEEK.
DEST REGARDS TO DORE SCHARY WILLIAM DIETERLE AND STAFF. REGARDS
OU.
CHARLES SKOURAS

1st NATIONAL THEATRES' SUCCESS!

...AND ON THE NEXT PAGE...

Record-smashing reports from the first individual theatres now playing this great hit...

Springfield, Mass. . . . Poli Palace

Worcester, Mass. . . . Poli Palace

Dayton, O. . . . Loew's

Miami, Fla. . . . Capitol, Miami and Lincoln Theatres

Akron, O. . . . Loew's

Denver, Colo. . . . Denver and Esquire Theatres

Detroit, Mich. . . . Michigan Theatre

Louisville, Ky. . . . Loew's U.A.

St. Paul, Minn. . . . Paramount Theatre

Waterbury, Conn. . . . Poli Palace Theatre

Philadelphia, Pa. . . . Fox Theatre

Seattle, Wash. . . . Liberty Theatre

SELZNICK INTERNATIONAL presents

GINGER ROGERS
JOSEPH COTTEN
SHIRLEY TEMPLE

"I'LL BE SEEING YOU"

Different Patronage

All Kinds of Weather

Every Type of Theatre

BUT THE SAME STORY

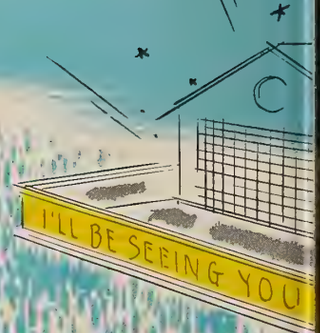
RECORD-BREAKING

BUSINESS!

Directed by WILLIAM DIETERLE • Produced by DORE SCHARY

Screen play by Marion Parsonnet • From a story by Charles Martin

RELEASED THRU UNITED ARTISTS



And all this is only . . . The Beginning!

Television's Revival Under BBC Asked

(*Continued from page* 1)

paying an extra four-dollar annual license fee.

Also called for is the immediate creation of a technical advisory committee to coordinate research, encourage patent pooling and ensure Britain's postwar export market.

Lord Hankey's group considers that the film industry will not be interested in television, except for occasion broadcasts of outstanding national events, until the definition is improved to the 1,000-line standard. Intensive government-sponsored experiments along these lines is urged, as well as experiments on color.

Film Collaboration

The committee, further, is statisfied that film interests realize the potentialities of the new medium, as well as the beneficial results to be obtained from working in collaboration, rather than in competition, with BBC.

Another recommendation calls for early consultation with the film industry to fix license fees as a contribution to the cost of the needed experiments. Some $4,000,000 annually is estimated as required for reopening the London service, with $3,000,000 more for provincial operations.

Motion picture industry leaders are said to be withholding their complete approval of the report until they can discuss their special problems with the government departments.

NBC Setting Postwar European News Plan

American networks are now lining up news staffs in Europe with an eye to interpreting developments on the European scene in the postwar, particularly in Germany, for the American people, William F. Brooks, NBC director of news and special events, indicated at a luncheon in his honor at the Hotel Waldorf Astoria, here, Friday. Brooks returned last week from a five-week tour of the Western Front, Paris and London.

Brooks recounted some of his experiences on the Western Front for the audience which included press representatives and NBC executives, among them Clarence E. Menser, O. B. Hanson, Judge A. L. Ashby, Roy C. Witmer, Dr. James Rowland Angell, William S. Hedges, Clay Morgan, Mrs. Brooks and Sydney Eiges.

Loew 50c Dividend

Directors of Loew's have declared a dividend of 50 cents per share on the company's common stock, payable March 31 to stockholders of record March 23.

EXPERIENCED MAN

Theater or distribution experience. Excellent starting salary and per diem. Will be required to cover limited number of branch cities as District Manager for a national inspection company. Give full experience, background, and complete references. Must be available immediately.

Box 247
MOTION PICTURE DAILY
New York

Raw Stock Curbs Hit Release of Many Films

(*Continued from page* 1)

February because, as George Bagnall, vice-president, points out, there is no stock available although the company has nine completed films; Paramount may have to reshuffle some of the releases in its fourth block to provide for sufficient prints to trade-show some of the films in its fifth block; and other companies are similarly hit.

A more serious aspect of the tight raw stock situation is the mounting backlog of films all companies appear to have due to both extended runs and raw stock shortage.

RKO has been forced to delay general release of "What a Blonde," "Pan Americana," "Betrayal from the East" and "Enchanted Cottage," all originally included in the company's third block for 1944-45 and planned for general release in the first quarter. The company has approximately 20 films completed (or in work), but not released.

Universal has been obliged to postpone the release of three films originally scheduled for the first quarter. These include "Song of the Sarong," "Penthouse Rhythm" and "I'll Remember April." The company has only been able to release two films in March whereas it released five in February and four in January. Universal has 12 films completed and awaiting printing before they can be scheduled for release.

Several at Monogram

Ed Morey, Monogram supervisor of exchanges, said that "several pictures have been held up which were set for release in the first quarter." Monogram has a backlog of 11 pictures.

Bert Kulick, PRC general sales manager, reported that three features scheduled to be released in this quarter have been held up because of the lack of stock and, consequently, others have been set back on the release schedule. Kulick disclosed that PRC is in a "bad spot" because the base year for which allocations have been set, 1941, saw the company in its infancy, making fewer and smaller pictures compared with other years. PRC, he said, has eight in its backlog.

Edward H. Seifert, Republic vice-president, said that "we only announce a release date when prints are shipped and accessories are out. We don't have a schedule on what we're going to release." Republic has accumulated a backlog of some 15 features, Seifert said.

Since September, Seifert disclosed, the company has released 13 out of 32 features scheduled for this year. One Roy Rogers' picture has been released out of eight promised, and 13 Westerns out of 20 scheduled have already been released, he said.

A 20th Century-Fox home office sales spokesman said that the company has not completed printing for the first quarter; one picture has not been started and printing for four or five others has not been competed. "Instead of scheduling our releases ahead, we will release them according to our ability to print them," he said. He could not estimate how many films the studio has completed which would have been released in this quarter if the company had the stock.

M-G-M has been releasing three pictures a month during January, February and March as against four pictures monthly last year. So far, the company has released nine films against the 12 released in 1944. It has a backlog of 15 pictures which have been completed but not released.

Four at Columbia.

Columbia officials would not comment on the story at all. However, it was learned elsewhere, that because of the raw stock shortage the company has been unable to release four pictures. Up to and including April 30, Columbia will have released 19 of 28 pictures scheduled. The company salesmen and bookers are being warned to watch their selective contracts and not to accept a rejection on a film unless they are positive that the contractual commitment will be completed.

Paramount is meeting commitments during the current quarter because of the curtailed rate of releases as compared with the company's rate during the 1941 base allocation period. However, Paramount has not been able to have release prints made of "The Affairs of Susan," initial Hal Wallis production, which will open in New York at the Rivoli Theatre in a few weeks. Printing has been scheduled to avoid any dislocation in releasing but some reshuffling is necessary to make needed prints for trade screenings planned for early in April. The company is understood to have over 20 films completed and in work.

Warners has been able to maintain its schedule of printing since the company has confined itself to one or two films a month. There has been no delay in Warner releases because of the raw stock situation. The company has about 18 films completed.

Pictorial Closes Deals

Milton J. Salzburg, president of Pictorial Films, Inc., has returned to New York from a Midwestern sales tour on which he signed contracts with Bell and Howell, Ideal Pictures and Central Camera of Chicago, all of which will feature Pictorial's 1945 features and shorts in 16mm prints.

Contract for Madison

HOLLYWOOD, March 11.—B. G. De Sylva has given Noel Madison, former short subjects director, a seven-year directorial contract and assigned him to "Stork Club."

McGuire's Birthday

P. A. McGuire, advertising director of International Projector Corp., here, is observing his birthday today, stating Saturday that he is definitely over 30. (He had a theatre in 1912). McGuire became advertising manager of Nicholas Power Co. in 1919, and of International Projector in 1926.

Goldman Coming Home

HOLLYWOOD, March 11.—Edmund Goldman, Columbia manager in the Philippines, has been released from the Los Banos prison camp and will be returned home immediately, according to a cable received by his wife.

Kalmenson Calls All Field Staff to Meet At Branch Sessions

Plans for a series of district sales meetings, in which branch managers will participate, to be followed by local meetings for the entire sales personnel in the respective exchanges, to avoid the travel involved in holding the former single sales convention, were outlined by Ben Kalmenson, general sales manager for Warner Bros., at a conference of district managers and home office executives held in New York on Saturday.

This year's sales drive, designated as 'Warner's Heap Big Powwow of 1945,' will run from April 1 to July 28, with the Indian motif employed in promotional accessories.

Separate Campaigns

Mort Blumenstock, head of Warner advertising-publicity in the East, in outlining special campaigns on "Hotel Berlin," "Roughly Speaking," "God Is My Co-Pilot," "The Corn Is Green," "The Horn Blows at Midnight" and other films, said that separate campaigns applying particularly to both large and small cities are being mapped. The campaigns will embrace newspaper, radio and special promotional activities. Samuel Schneider, vice-president, discussed some of the current problems relating to prints, as well as increased film costs. Norman H. Moray, short subject sales manager and appointed by Kalmenson to again serve as captain of the annual sales drive, presented details of the drive to the sales gathering.

First of the meetings, for the Eastern group, took place Saturday, with Jules Lapidus, Eastern division sales manager, presiding. Others participating included Norman Ayers, Robert Smeltzer, George W. Horan, Fred Beiersdorf, Al Herman, Ray Smith, Carl Goe, W. G. Mansell, Clarence Eiseman, Art Moger, George Fishman, Franklin Fisher and others. The next meeting will be held in Pittsburgh, tomorrow, with Chicago, Memphis, West Coast and Canada to follow.

M-G-M Acquires Two Spanish Pictures

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer will distribute two Mexican pictures, "Maria Candelaria" and "El Penon De Las Animas." The contract was arranged by Arthur Loew, head of Loew's International Corp., whereby M-G-M acquired distribution rights for all non-Spanish-speaking territories. "Maria Candelaria" was produced by Film Mundiales and stars Dolores del Rio; "El Penon De Las Animas" stars Maria Felix and Jorge Negete and was produced by Clasa Films.

Up to now Latin American productions have received little or no circulation in non-Spanish speaking countries. M-G-M says its new policy will be to synchronize these pictures into local languages and thus aid in the interchange of film productions.

'Blimp' Benefit

The premiere of "Colonel Blimp," British, at the Gotham Theatre, here, will be sponsored by the Society of Illustrators on behalf of their fund for the rehabilitation of wounded servicemen.

"Gives one the feeling of having discovered some rare jewel."
—*Hollywood Reporter*

"Will play a merry tune at the box-office."
—*Variety*

"One of the month's most noteworthy screen events."
—*Boxoffice*

"In the top bracket."
—*Hollywood Variety*

"Beats a path of its own . . . an attraction of some size."
—*Motion Picture Daily*

"Deeply moving . . . has tremendous appeal for women."
—*Film Daily*

"Timely . . . should prove beneficial to box-office."
—*Showmen's Trade Review*

"Unusual love story, will get the women's vote."
—*The Exhibitor*

"Escapism is the theme and essence of this superlative picture into which its off-screen and on-screen creators have poured not only all the ingredients of realistic romance, but also the prerequisites of commercial success. It is a natural, both as box-office merchandise and as entertainment, for all types of theatres and audiences."

—*Motion Picture Herald*

NATIONAL PRESENTATION IN MID-APRIL!

COLLECT AT EVERY SHOW! RED CROSS WEEK—MARCH 15-21

RKO ADS SCHEDULED FOR 29,007,375 CIRCULATION!

A top-bracket national campaign for a top-bracket attraction. Running to sell seats for you in publications like WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION—McCALL'S—RED BOOK—COLLIER'S—LOOK—LIBERTY—TRUE STORY—WOMAN'S DAY—FAMILY CIRCLE and the ENTIRE FAN LIST. The ad reproduced herewith runs in McCall's, Red Book, Family Circle and two fan magazines.

First Video Tie-up In Red Cross Drive

Television will be utilized by the motion picture industry to help launch its 1945 Red Cross War Fund Week, marking the first time such a tie-up has been effected. The industry's drive publicity committee reports that arrangements have been made through Ralph B. Austrian, RKO Television Corp. vice-president and television chairman of the drive, for a telecast over CBS station WCBW (channel 2) Wednesday night, on the eve of the opening of the drive.

Austrian is programmed to appear before the television cameras in an appeal in behalf of the Red Cross drive in motion picture theatres. He will be followed by a telecast of the ten-minute short, "Seeing Them Through," made by March of Time for the Red Cross.

Catholic Charities Committee Named

(*Continued from page* 1)

Alicoate, Martin F. Bennett, Major Edward Bowes, Steve Broidy, Harry Buckley, Patrick Casey, T. J. Connors, H. M. Doherty, G. S. Eyssell, Si Fabian, E. C. Grainger, J. R. Grainger, Al Hovell, John Kane, Austin C. Keough, Leo J. McCarthy, Joseph McConville, Charles B. McDonald, Joseph P. McLoughlin, Joseph E. McMahon, James A. Mulvey, John Murphy, William P. Murphy, William J. Murray, Leon Netter, John Nolan, Dennis F. O'Brien, Thomas F. O'Connor, Charles L. O'Reilly, P. A. Powers.

Also: Martin Quigley, Charles Reagan, Phil Reisman, Herman Robbins, W. F. Rodgers, George J. Schaefer, William A. Scully, E. H. Seifert, George Skouras, Spyros Skouras and William White.

Senft Will Again Head Cinema Lodge

(*Continued from page* 1)

Confidential Reports, Inc.; Martin Levine, Brandt Theatres, and Milton Livingston, MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Vice-Presidents nominated for reelection are: S. Arthur Glixon, Bernard Goodman, Leo Jaffe, Samuel Lefkowitz, William Melnicker, Alvin T. Sapinsley, Norman Steinberg, Louis Weber, Robert M. Weitman, Robert Wile and William Zimmerman.

Max B. Blackman has been nominated for reelection as treasurer; Julius M. Collins, recording secretary and Herman Levine, corresponding secretary.

Naomi Fine Joins WMCA

Naomi Fine has joined radio station WMCA, New York, as sales promotion manager, replacing Howard Klarman who resigned to become an account executive for the station. Fine was previously with CBS as radio sales promotion supervisor.

Mutual Adds Outlets

Radio stations WKST, New Castle, Pa., WJPA, Washington, Pa., WAJR, Morgantown, West Va., and KFXD, Nampa-Boise, Idaho have joined the Mutual Broadcasting network. Station WCBM will join Mutual June 15.

Reviews

"Brewster's Millions"

(*United Artists-Edward Small*)

ANOTHER generation of film patrons has joined the ranks of theatregoers since the previous filming of "Brewster's Millions," by Herbert Willcox, in England, and its release in the U. S. by United Artists, in 1935; it was originally made by Paramount, in 1921, and the book and play has been a popular standby for almost half a century. Also, radio adaptations have served to acquaint an ever-increasing number with the timeless story of the frantic attempts of J. Mortimer Brewster to spend a million dollars in 60 days without squandering it. In its 1945 unfolding, here, Edward Small has derived a hilarious, rollicking and riotous farce, featuring Dennis O'Keefe as the helpless Brewster, supported by Helen Walker, June Havoc, Eddie (Rochester) Anderson, Gail Patrick and Mischa Auer.

In selling this film, exhibitors can safely ignore the fact that their patrons might have seen it before. The story is brought right up to the present and the devices employed by Brewster to dispose of the initial million dollars in 60 days, before his 30th birthday, so that he can inherit an additional seven million left by his uncle, are definitely keyed to the future.

O'Keefe and his two buddies, Joe Sawyer and Herbert Rudley, have just been honorably discharged after two years in the Army, and O'Keefe is about to get married to his childhood sweetheart, played by Miss Walker, as this version gets underway. O'Keefe finances one venture after another ranging from buying taxis and race horses to underwriting a yacht tour for a troupe of a musical comedy to entertain servicemen. Since he must keep his activities secret, even from his fiancée, he really has tough sledding, made all the more complicated by his well-meaning buddies who try to curb his extravagances.

Alan Dwan's direction is fast, moving quickly from one complication to another. Siegfried Herzig, Charles Rogers and Wilkie Mahoney have crammed many timely gags into their screen play, which represents a considerable departure from the original George Barr McCutcheon book and the Winchell Smith and Byron Ongley stage play. Televising of a horse race; War Labor Board salary ceilings, and the gasoline shortage are involved in some of the timely situations.

Others in the cast include Nana Bryant, John Litel, Thurston Hall and Neil Hamilton. Small has surrounded it all in an attractive production and has come up with another film to make many customers laugh; that is just what an audience at the Loew's Mayfair, on Broadway, here, did when the film was given a 'sneak' preview.

Running time, 78 minutes. General classification. Release date not set.

MILTON LIVINGSTON

"Utah"

(*Republic*)

ROY ROGERS' musical Western "Utah" follows the usual pattern of Rogers' vehicles, and has sufficient action and a diverting enough twist in story, plus excellent supporting cast performances, to more than satisfy the many Rogers' fans.

Dale Evans, heroine of the story, enacts the part of a musical comedy star who owns a ranch in Utah, which she decides to sell to promote capital for a contemplated show in Chicago. Rogers, manager of the ranch, is determined to prevent the sale, and on Dale's arrival, deceives her into believing that a run-down neighboring ranch, operated by George (Gabby) Hayes, belongs to her. Rogers' plan to prevent the sale backfires, when the girl, instead of giving up because the ranch appears to be worthless, sells out to the villain, Grant Withers.

Rogers is arrested for attempting to prevent the sale, but manages to get free in time to get to Chicago's stockyards and in a knock-down-drag-out fight, conquers Withers, and proves the downpayment for the ranch to be worthless. Rogers and his boys, the Sons of the Pioneers, then assist in making the musical comedy a success.

The film has eight songs, of which "Five Little Miles," sung and acted exceedingly well by the Pioneers, and "Utah Trail," are the best. The support is headed by Hayes, who almost steals the picture with his gags; Grant Withers, who is a suave villain, and Trigger, who aids his master in the various gun battles and fist fights, of which there are plenty.

Dale Evans' singing and acting are inclined to be somewhat stilted. She and Rogers divide six of the films' eight songs, the other two being sung by the Pioneers. Photography, by William Bradford is very good; the direction of John English tends to be somewhat slow. Associate producer was Donald H. Brown. The screenplay, by Jack Townley and John K. Butler, from a story by Gilbert Wright and Betty Burbridge, is thoroughly realistic. Larry Ceballos was the dance director.

Running time, 78 minutes. General classification. Release date, March 21.

EDWARD SMITH

Soviet Film in English

"Wait For Me," Soviet film, in English, will open at the Stanley Theatre, here, on March 17. The picture was produced in Russia under the direction of Boris Inanov and Alexander Stolper, and the English version was dubbed here. It is the second Soviet film to be dubbed in the United States, the first being "No Greater Love." Both are released by Artkino Pictures.

$31,680 More for 'Dimes'

SCRANTON, Pa., March 11.—J. J. O'Leary, president of Comerford Theatres, and chairman of the March of Dimes 1945 campaign here announces receipts of the drive here total $31,680, half of which will be retained by the Lackawanna County Chapter of National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis, and the remaining half to be sent to the national organization.

3,227 Campaigns in Drive Competition

Patriotic and showmanship efforts of exhibitors throughout the U. S. who arranged outstanding exploitation campaigns during the Sixth War Loan drive, will be rewarded this week when winners in the $5,000 screen magazine exploitation contest will be announced, John Hertz, Jr., publicity director, discloses.

"The enthusiasm demonstrated by exhibitors from all parts of the country was outstanding," said Hertz, who reported 3,227 entries were received, "covering every conceivable channel of theatre merchandising for the sale of war bonds. These results have accounted for the committee splitting the $5,000 prize money into 10 major prizes and five consolation awards—all in war bonds."

The judges who will select the winners will be Harry Brandt, national Sixth War Loan chairman, S. H. Fabian, Jack Alicoate, Hertz, Francis Harmon and Stuart Little.

Committee selected to organize the awards consisted of Stuart Little, chairman, *Screen Stars;* Ken Joy, *Modern Screen;* Richard Hoffman, *Movieland;* Al Stearn, Fawcett Publications.

Eight Shorts to Help Seventh War Loan

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Merriman H. Holtz, special 16mm. consultant to the War Finance Division of the Treasury Department, has returned to Washington, from New York, for the Seventh War Loan drive.

It is indicated that there will be eight to 10 short subjects of from 15 to 20 minutes each and at least six 1½-minute 'impact' trailers available during the Seventh War Loan. First prints on these subjects will start going forward early in April.

WPB Film Allocation Hits Lab Operations

(*Continued from page* 1)

panies from starting to make prints now of films they will release between April 1 and June 30 and which use second quarter raw stock allocations. Previously, the companies made advance prints during the final weeks of the previous quarter.

While the laboratories have quantities of raw stock on hand to maintain a steady pace of operations, they are being forced to confine their processing to prints for the Armed Services, newsreels and to complete the small quantity of prints which a few companies are able to order within first quarter stock allocations.

350,000 See 'Henry'

LONDON, March 11.—Seen by 350,000 in its 17-week run at the Carlton Theatre, here, "Henry V" is moving to the Marble Arch Pavilion, where J. Arthur Rank anticipates continuing its engagement until general release in September.

'Blimp' Set for Gotham

"Colonel Blimp," the J. Arthur Rank-Eagle-Lion production in Technicolor, is scheduled for a Broadway opening on March 29 at the Gotham.

House Ponders Bill On Manpower Today

(Continued from page 1)

affect the film industry through its provisions empowering draft boards to assign men between 18 and 45, who are not taken for military service, to war plants where labor shortages exist, making failure to respond punishable by fine or imprisonment.

The Senate bill gives the War Manpower Commission authority to impose employment ceilings on establishments, but gives workers forced out of non-essential jobs the choice of accepting essential work or remaining idle without penalty.

Sinclair-Hill, British Producer, Is Killed

LONDON, March 11.—General Sinclair-Hill, 48, Wing Commander of the Royal Air Force, and for 20 years prior to the war a leading film producer, has been killed in action.

His son, Pilot Officer Nigel Sinclair-Hill, was killed last year. Hill's first London stage production, "Ten Minute Alibi," ran two years.

'Frisco House Drops Acts

SAN FRANCISCO, March 11.—Warfield, Fox West Coast house, is dropping vaudeville, it was announced following a conference between company executives here from Hollywood. The theatre will revert to a straight picture policy, starting with the showing of "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn."

Reason for the move, it was announced, is to give the house a stronger picture policy.

Michigan Bill for Municipal Taxation

(Continued from page 1)

chairman of the House Ways and Means committee, is sponsored by eight members of the Legislature, and has the backing of Michigan mayors through the League of Municipalities. Many of the members of the League are mayors of cities having war-swollen populations, necessitating increased sources of revenue.

Experience elsewhere has shown that municipalities which have been enabled by state legislation to impose excise taxes have uniformly resorted to taxes on amusements. Exhibitor concern also is centered upon the difficulty of having such municipal tax legislation eliminated after the emergency which occasioned it has passed.

Sims Sues Popkin in Theatre Sale Dispute

LOS ANGELES, March 11.—Herman Sims, realty dealer, filed suit in Superior Court here Friday asking $10,000 damages from Harry M. Popkin, alleging that the latter failed to consummate the sale of the local Vogue and Pan-Pacific Theatres to Joseph Blumenfield, San Francisco exhibitor, for "reasons known to Popkin." The complaint says Popkin had authorized the transaction under terms giving Sims a 25-month salary contract at $400 monthly.

Altec in Two Deals

Altec has signed the Walter Brackin circuit of Alabama theatres for sound service, repairs and projector parts. The Hamberfeld and Flexer circuits in Mississippi and Tennessee have also been contracted.

Barron Steers Lana On 'Powder' Mission

WASHINGTON, March 11.—"Keep Your Powder Dry," M-G-M's story of the Wacs, had its Washington premiere at the weekend at Loew's Capitol before an audience of military and Governmental officialdom. The premiere culminated five days of activity for Lana Turner, star of the film, who has been touring Washington on behalf of the Woman's Army Corps, under the supervision of Carter Barron, Loew's Washington Representative. Highlight of Miss Turner's visit were a luncheon in the office of the Secretary of the Senate, Leslie Biffle, at which were present Vice-President Jr., and ten Senators.

Franchise Suit Trial Is Off to March 30

Trial of the Leader Theatre Corp., against Randforce Circuit and 20th Century-Fox, to test the validity of the transfer of a film franchise, has been postponed to March 30 in New York Supreme Court. Action was scheduled for trial today, but 15 other cases preceded it on the court calendar.

Plaintiff, Leonard Storch, purchased the Leader last Summer from Randforce and claims 20th-Fox transferred its franchise from the Leader to another theatre in the Randforce Circuit. Plaintiff states the transfer is illegal, and is seeking 20th-Fox product for its theatre.

Cinelandia Starts

MEXICO CITY, March 11.—Cinelandia Films, newest producer, has started work on its first production, which will be released at Eastertime.

Southern Exhibitors At Reagan Luncheon

ATLANTA, March 11.—Southern showmen turned out here on Friday to honor Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, on his first official visit to the South since being appointed to his present post. Exhibitors and circuit executives representing several states attended a luncheon in his honor in the Biltmore Hotel. Mayor William B. Hartsgeld was a guest.

Hugh Owen, New York and Southern division manager, was master of ceremonies. Also present from the home office were R. M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director, and Claude Lee, director of public relations. The Paramount executives came to Atlanta for a regional sales meeting of New Orleans, Atlanta and Charlotte branch managers, salesmen and head bookers.

Among exhibitors present were: R. M. Wilby, J. H. Harrison, James Howell, Roy Avey, Willis Davis, H. P. Rhodes, Tom Jones, H. Reed, Glen Gryder, Richard Johnson, Hugh Maslin, Charles Karr, John Harrell, Lionel Keene, J. H. Carter, Mel Turner, State Senator, of Decatur, Ga., and also of the Martin Circuit; Howard Schuessler, Oscar C. Lam, J. B. Hardy, Dudley J. Collins, John Thompson, Fred Coleman, State Senator Mark Jackson, Luke Stein, Foreman Rogers and B. Brannon.

Also present were: John F. Kirby, Atlanta district manager; Grover Parsons, Atlanta branch manager; E. B. Price, New Orleans; Scott Lett, Charlotte; Vernon Gray, district advertising representatives, and branch office representatives.

Vivacious Constance Moore delights her audience with a hit tune from Republic's super-musical, "Earl Carroll Vanities," featuring Woody Herman and his band of the year and co-starring Dennis O'Keefe.

ADVT.

THEY NEVER MISS A PERFORMANCE!

Please collect for them at every performance during the week of March 15-21st

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 49 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1945 | TEN CENTS

Studio Strike Halts 75% Of Production on 1st Day

Warners, 20th-Fox and RKO Suspend All Production; Shutdown of Others Today Expected; Sympathy Walkouts Growing

By WILLIAM R. WEAVER

HOLLYWOOD, March 12.—Following a special meeting on the strike called today by the Conference of Studio Unions in behalf of Set Decorators Local 1421, which reduced production an estimated 75 per cent and threatened a complete shutdown tomorrow, the producers issued a statement declaring, "We were caught helplessly in a jurisdictional dispute."

To have observed the War Labor Board award affecting the Set Decorators would have precipitated an immediate serious work stoppage because the producers were notified by Richard Walsh, IATSE president, that in event of such recognition he would instruct his membership not to report for work, the statement continued, adding: "We have no recourse in the present situation and can only await official action."

Sorrell Confident

CSU president Herbert Sorrell issued a statement saying, "The first day of the strike was very successful. Warners, 20th Century-Fox and RKO have given up all effort to make pictures for the time being, and the other studios are severely handicapped. General Service, California Studios and Popular Productions gave us a letter saying they were willing to go along with the WLB order. We will remain on strike until the producers abide by the WLB order."

The Warner studio stopped production on the appearance of the picket line, with an announced intention to "stay shut down until the strike is over." Two features were interrupted.

Twentieth Century-Fox, with five features in production; RKO, with three; Republic, with two, and Universal, with four, were prevented from continuing shooting when members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, refusing to cross the picket lines, were not available to service plant generators. Universal later got started.

MGM, with three features shooting,

(Continued on page 6)

Films Included In New Byrnes ExportControl

'Almost Everything' to Be Checked by Committee

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Exports of motion picture film "and practically everything" will come under the jurisdiction of the new Export Control Committee set up yesterday by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes, it was disclosed here today by a spokesman for the office of war mobilization.

While most of the publicity given the creation of the new organization was from the angle of safeguarding U. S. food supplies, the OWM official pointed out that the subject of food was not touched upon in the official announcement and was only one of several matters referred to in Byrnes' letter to FEA Administrator Leo T. Crowley.

In both the announcement and the letter it was specified that the purpose

(Continued on page 9)

B'way Grosses Still Steady

Broadway first-run theatres are headed for another week of profitable receipts but no attempt is being made to minimize the effect of the Byrnes midnight curfew on business. General estimates place the average loss to Broadway theatres at 10 per cent, but several report that many customers who formerly attended late shows are

(Continued on page 3)

$5,000,000 Profit Is Seen for RKO

RKO profits for 1944 will be slightly under $5,000,000, after deductions for all taxes, it is learned here. The company's net for 1943 was $6,965,005. Net for the first nine months of 1944, as already reported by the company was $3,634,863, compared with $5,008,074 for the first 39 weeks of 1943. Gross for the first

(Continued on page 6)

U.K. Stock Shortage More than Expected; Cut Seen Hitting 15%

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, March 12.—British Government Board of Trade sources disclose here that the industry's raw stock shortage is much severer than was at first feared, exceeding earlier figures for which a five or 10 per cent reduction was contemplated; consequently, a 15 per cent cut is in prospect for the remainder of the year.

The Board, the Kinematograph

(Continued on page 6)

Hertz Again Heads Bond Promotions

John Hertz, Jr., chairman of the board of Buchanan and Co., Inc., advertising agency, has been appointed chairman of publicity and advertising for the industry's Seventh War Loan Drive, Samuel Pinanski, national drive chairman, announced yesterday.

"Mr. Hertz served with distinction in a similar capacity during the in-

(Continued on page 9)

Raw Stock Delays British Releases

CHICAGO, March 12.—Release of British pictures has been held up indefinitely in this area, primarily due to the critical raw stock situation. Tom Gilliam, 20th-Fox manager here, says nothing has been set yet for "The Way Ahead," even though it has had a January national release date. Leon Fromkess, PRC president, reported that the company's concentration on its own product under its reduced raw stock quota will delay the local showing of "The Spirit of Amy Nugent." No deal has yet been made for "Mr. Emmanual" in this region, according to Frank Yank, United Artists sales manager. The exchange has only one print of the picture on hand.

Scarcity of Materials Will Hamper Midwest Theatre Flood Repairs

Cincinnati, March 12.—War-born scarcities and restrictions pose a definite problem for exhibitors whose theatres have been affected by the floodwaters of the Ohio river and its tributaries, rated as the third worst disaster of its kind in local river history. At best, start of rehabilitation work cannot be safely undertaken until buildings have dried out sufficiently to justify.

Although authorities estimate property and kindred damage at $4,750,000, aside from $3,000,000 industrial damage here alone, and $1,750,000 residential and industrial damage in northern Kentucky, with 60 plants being compelled to suspend operations, overall physical damage to theatre structures, equipment, accessories and furnishings cannot be estimated; nor is it possible to venture a guess on losses due to closings. It is believed safe to report, however, that the total amount will run comparatively high. Unfortunately, flood insurance cannot be obtained on theatres in locations rated as flood hazards, actual or potential. However, Federal and State authorities are agitating legislation for conservancy or flood control projects designed to prevent, or, at least, minimize future floods.

Reviewed Today

Review of "John Dillinger" appears on page 9.

Discrimination Law Enacted Here

ALBANY, N. Y., March 12.—Governor Thomas E. Dewey today signed the nation's first anti-discrimination law, making religious or racial discrimination in hiring employees, a misdemeanor in the State. The law, known as the Ives-Quinn bill, will apply to all fields of employment, including the film industry. The law sets up a commission empowered to hear charges of discrimination and to render judgment for or against an employer.

A Senate sub-committee in Washington, also began the study of whether the post-war problem of racial and religious job discrimination in the United States should be approached through education or enforced by law. Open hearings on the proposals were held, with two bills, by Senator Chavez and Senator Taft, under discussion. Chavez told Senators and witnesses that it was his opinion that voluntary methods of removing discrimination had failed, and that "effective regulation requires sanction."

The Taft bill was attacked as being "nothing more than a pious expression against discrimination" and "a crippling substitute."

Roxy Losing $2,000 Nightly from Curfew

The New York Roxy is losing between $2,000 and $3,000 in receipts every night as the result of the midnight curfew, according to a 20th Century-Fox home office spokesman. The theatre has been forced to eliminate one show a night, which would normally be held for a picture of the importance of "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," it was said.

Cowdin, 'U' Chairman Back from London

J. Cheever Cowdin, Universal board chairman, arrived in New York from London on Sunday following a four weeks business visit there, during which he conferred with J. Arthur Rank and officials of the latter's General Film Distributors, through which Universal product is distributed in Great Britain.

Breen-Ameche Nuptials

HOLLYWOOD, March 12.—Plans to be married soon have been announced by Catherine Ameche, sister of Don Ameche, and James Breen, member of the famed Carlson's Raiders, who was invalided home recently after three years in the Pacific. Breen is the son of Joseph I. Breen, production code administrator. Miss Ameche is on the public relations staff at the Army Birmingham General Hospital, Van Nuys, Cal.

Cagney Pays $250,000

HOLLYWOOD, March 12.—William Cagney has purchased Adria Locke Langley's new book, recently serialized by the *Saturday Evening Post*, "Lion in the Streets," for $250,000, according to Untied Artists.

Personal Mention

JOHN W. HICKS, JR., Paramount International president, returned to New York from the Coast yesterday.

•

WARRANT OFFICER PAUL WHITE, formerly of Paramount's publicity department, was the first man to return to the United States from Iwo Jima with films of the battle. He is on temporary duty in Washington.

•

HILDA UEBELHOER, of the Universal Buffalo exchange, has resigned to join here husband at Battle Creek, Mich., where he is recovering from wounds.

•

SAM HORWITZ, Loew's Poli assistant manager, Springfield, Mass., and ESTHER CALESCHMAN, Bijou, New Haven, assistant manager, are engaged.

•

LOUIS POLLOCK, head of the new film advertising department of the Biow Agency, will leave New York for the Coast on Friday to establish headquarters there.

•

THOMAS L. WALKER, Edward Small Productions secretary, arrived in New York yesterday from the Coast.

•

IRVING MAAS, 20th Century-Fox International vice-president, is recovering from an operation at St. Vincent's Hospital here.

•

ARTHUR SILVERSTONE, 20th-Fox special home office foreign representative, will return to London within three weeks.

•

WLLIAM D. KELLY, head of the M-G-M print department, will leave here for Washington tomorrow.

•

WILLIAM SEIB, Columbia Salt Lake City manager, has returned there from Denver.

•

CARL NEDLEY, M-G-M exchange manager at Salt Lake City, is in Nevada.

•

A. G. EDWARDS, PRC Salt Lake City manager, will be in Idaho for another week.

•

GIFF DAVISON, RKO Salt Lake City exchange manager, left there for Boise, Idaho, this week.

•

FRANCIS A. BATEMAN, Republic Western manager, will return to the Coast from Salt Lake City soon.

•

JOHN STRAUSS, former Buffalo Warner salesman, has left there for the Coast.

•

MARION RYAN, M-G-M Buffalo office manager, is expected back there soon from the Coast.

•

IRA H. COHN, 20th-Fox Buffalo branch manager, has returned there from Cleveland.

•

VICTOR MORRELLI, manager of the Bristol, Bristol, Conn., is home after six weeks in the hospital.

•

GEORGE KIRBY, Republic Cincinnati manager, is in Hollywood.

ROY DISNEY will arrive in New York today from the Coast.

•

CHARLES RICH, Warner district manager in Cleveland and Pittsburgh, and MRS. RICH, will leave Thursday for Miami Beach.

•

MITCHELL FRANKLIN, secretary of Franklin and Herschorn Circuit, St. John, N. B., is visiting New York with his wife.

•

WILLIAM PIERCE, JR., Lester Cowan advertising and publicity head, arrived in New York yesterday from the Coast.

•

E. L. McEVOY, Universal short subjects sales manager, will be in San Francisco, Seattle and Portland this week.

•

STEVE BROIDY, Monogram vice-president and general sales manager, left Hollywood on the Chief yesterday for Washington.

•

ROBERT L. LONG, Film Classics auditor from New York, is visiting the Cleveland exchange.

•

TED TODDY, Toddy Pictures president, has returned to Atlanta from a trip to New York and California.

•

H. A. ROSS, Ross Federal Service president, is in Los Angeles from New York.

•

CLARENCE EISEMAN, Warner New York branch manager, has returned to New York from Florida.

•

H. B. ENGEL, DeVry Corp. sales manager, is touring the Southern states.

•

LEO SAMUELS, Walt Disney foreign manager, will leave New York today for a 10-week tour of Latin America.

•

VINCENT TROTTA, National Screen Service art director, will make a USO tour of Army and Navy hospitals.

•

GEORGE DINDAS, New York Strand manager, became the father of a son, MARK, late last week.

•

HUGH OWEN and ROBERT GILLHAM of Paramount will return to New York today from a trip to Atlanta.

•

ALLEN ABEEL, of the Guarantee Trust Co., New York, left for the Coast Monday.

•

CARL FLOYD and LUKE STEIN of the Stein and Floyd Circuit, Georgia and Florida, are visiting in Atlanta.

•

NORMAN ELSON, Trans-Lux Theatres vice-president, will leave for Philadelphia and Washington today.

•

SAM GALANTY, Columbia district manager, has been in Cleveland the past week.

•

ARTHUR GREENBLATT, Monogram district manager, is in Cleveland.

•

R. L. BRAUER, Universal Atlanta manager, is visiting in Miami.

PCCITO Trustees in Annual Meet Today

LOS ANGELES, March 12.—The Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners' annual meeting of trustees, will open here tomorrow at the Ambassador Hotel. Meetings will continue through Thursday. Martin Smith, Allied president, will attend.

NEW YORK THEATRES

Thrills, Songs and Romance Come Out of the West!
"UTAH!"
starring ROY ROGERS
featuring
GEORGE "GABBY" HAYES
DALE EVANS
BOB NOLAN and the
SONS OF THE PIONEERS
A Republic Picture
1st N. Y. Showing
REPUBLIC
B'way, bet. 51st & 52nd Sts.

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. & 6th Ave.
RITA HAYWORTH
"TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT"
JANET BLAIR ★ LEE BOWMAN
A Columbia Picture in TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
'MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS'
Judy GARLAND
Margaret O'BRIEN
IN PERSON
VINCENT LOPEZ and ORCH.

Paramount presents
Veronica LAKE Sonny TUFTS
Eddie Bracken Marjorie Reynolds
"BRING on the GIRLS"
In Person
The Ink Spots
Ella Fitzgerald
Buck & Bubbles
Cootie Williams and his Orchestra
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Dick Powell
Claire Trevor - Anne Shirley
"Murder, My Sweet"
AN RKO RADIO PICTURE

SAMUEL GOLDWYN Presents
BOB HOPE
'THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE'
in Technicolor
Continuous Doors open 8:30 A.M.
ASTOR
Broadway & 45th Street
Popular Prices

WALT DISNEY'S
'The THREE CABALLEROS'
in TECHNICOLOR
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
NOW - - - Brandt's GLOBE

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'Lab' Worker Pact Talks to Continue

IATSE Motion Picture Laboratory Technicians' Local No. 702, representing about 1,800 laboratory workers in the 20 film processing laboratories here, will resume negotiations for a new contract for those workers with representatives of the companies today, following a decision by the union's executive board to delay any action upsetting the continuance of negotiations until the union's negotiating committee reports on progress next Friday. Contracts expired March 10.

Negotiations began Feb. 15 but although several meetings have been held, Local 702's representatives are understood to be dissatisfied with progress made. The union has presented numerous demands and to date, discussion has been confined to explanations of those demands, it is said, rather than actual negotiations on them. As reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY Feb. 26 and 28, these demands include a bid to double the present number of job classifications, to provide for upgrading of workers, wage increases and the setting up of a fund equal to five per cent of weekly payrolls to provide retirement and other benefits.

Murray Files New Action in Chicago

CHICAGO, March 12.—Thomas A. Murray, independent exhibitor, and plaintiff in an anti-trust suit against distributors, has filed a motion before Federal Judge William H. Holly to vacate the orders issued by the Judge early last month. These orders include the dismissal of the remaining distributors, Loew's and 20th Century-Fox, and the granting of a new trial for the other defendants. A hearing, set for today, was postponed to March 19 due to the illness of Miles Seeley, attorney for the defense.

On Jan. 24 a jury found eight of the defendants guilty and ordered payment of damages totalling $105,000.

Another Hochstein Delay

The trial of Harry Hochstein, former morals inspector in Chicago, and the sentencing of Isadore Nevin, former bookeeper for George E. Browne, ex-president of the IATSE, both of whom were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury for alleged perjury, were again postponed yesterday to Sept. 12 in the New York Federal Court by Judge Alfred C. Coxe.

Grosses Steady on B'way; Curfew Loss Put at 10%

(*Continued from page* 1)

coming at other times during the day and the loss of revenue is purely speculatory.

Of the new arrivals, "Tonight and Every Night," plus a stage show, is drawing moderately at Radio City Music Hall, with $65,500 registered for the first four days and a satisfactory $100,000 expected for the week; the film is set for three weeks, with "Without Love" to follow.

Standout business is being recorded for "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," and a stage show featuring Victor Borge and Joan Edwards, at the Roxy, where an outstanding $101,000 is expected for the second week on the basis of $76,100 counted for the first five days. "The Picture of Dorian Gray," combined with a strong stage bill featuring Lena Horne, Robert Walker and Xavier Cugat and his band, is another outstanding combination with a big second week of $75,000 expected, following an initial near-record week of almost $85,000.

Second week of "Hotel Berlin," and a stage presentation headlining Carmen Cavallaro and his band, plus Peter Lorre, at the Strand will bring close to $55,000, following a big initial week which exceeded early expectations, to bring over $63,000. "Bring on the Girls," and a stage bill presenting the Ink Spots, Ella Fitzgerald and others, is continuing to do good business at the Paramount, with $65,000 expected for the second week.

"Murder, My Sweet," at the Palace, and "Keep Your Powder Dry," at the Criterion are getting sturdy receipts. "Murder, My Sweet" is expected to bring a good $30,000 for its first week and "Keep Your Powder Dry" appears to be headed for a first week of better than $30,000.

"The Song of Bernadette," returning to the Rivoli at 'regular' admission prices following a run at the same theatre a year ago at scales, is expected to get about $24,000 for the first week of a special engagement; "The Affairs of Susan" is set to follow on March 28.

"The Princess and the Pirate" is continuing to draw nicely at the Astor with $27,000 expected for the fifth week. "The Three Caballeros" is holding well at the Globe, with indications of a $17,000 gross for a sixth week. "The Fighting Lady" will conclude an engagement of eight weeks and a day at the Victoria, tomorrow night, with about $12,500 expected for the final eight days; "Thunderhead, Son of Flicka" will open there Thursday.

"Roughly Speaking" is continuing to do moderate business at the Hollywood, with $15,000 expected for a sixth week. "Mr. Emmanuel" will bring about $7,900 for its 10th week at the Gotham; "Colonel Blimp" will take over on March 29. "Utah" appears to be headed for a quiet $6,000 for its first week at the Republic. An equally quiet $6,000 is expected for "Nothing but Trouble," at the Rialto, with "House of Fear" to take over Friday.

H. M. Richey's Son Missing in Crash

Lt. David Henderson Richey, son of H. M. Richey, assistant to William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager of Loew's, and Mrs. Naomi Munn Richey, was one of 10 crew members still missing yesterday following the crash of a B-24 Bomber late Saturday off Montauk Point, Long Island. Bodies of an officer and one of the enlisted personnel aboard the plane were recovered shortly after the crash. Lt. Richey's life jacket was found floating nearby.

Young Richey attended Iona Prep School at New Rochelle and was graduated from New York Military Academy at Cornwall-on-the-Hudson. He was a student at Cornell University when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps on Nov. 11, 1942. Lt. Richey, a navigator, was stationed at Westover Field, Mass. He is 22 years old.

Writers Defend OWI Postwar Proposal

HOLLYWOOD, March 12.—The Hollywood Writers Mobilization today addressed a letter to Lester Cowan, who last week criticized Robert Riskin's plan for a non-profit company to carry on the Office of War Information's film work after the war, which asserts: "You make this intelligent proposal sound like a bureaucratic plot against the industry. To us it seems like a real opportunity that should be welcomed and used."

Larry Steers, extra player, announced the formation of a screen extras' OWI's guild and said a wire had been dispatched to the Four A's seeking a charter.

Armour Is Back from Trip Abroad for OWI

Reginald Armour, Office of War Information overseas film bureau representative, in charge of the European theatre, has arrived in New York after a trip to England, France, North Africa and Italy, it was announced by the OWI here yesterday

Armour is here for conferences and a special mission for the OWI. He will return overseas shortly.

'Berlin' Apr. 6 in London

LONDON, March 12.—Because of its timeliness, Warner's "Hotel Berlin" is being rushed here for its British premiere at the Warner Theatre on April 6, six months earlier than is customary for an English showing.

Philippine Film Industry in Ruins

Wolfe Cohen, vice-president of Warner Bros. International Corp., now enroute to Australia, has added the Philippines to his itinerary, because Cliff Almy, Warner's Manila manager recently released from Santo Tomas prison camp, reports that the Japs practically destroyed film plants, offices and theaters there. Cohen will survey the damage and check on rebuilding of properties as well as methods of expediting film shipments to the islands.

Lapidus Presides at Warners Meeting

PITTSBURGH, March 12.—A two-day meeting of Warner branch managers for the Central District will get under way here tomorrow morning, with Jules Lapidus, Eastern division sales manager, presiding.

Norman H. Moray, short subject sales manager and captain of the company's 1945 sales drive, will outline the coming campaign; Bill Brumberg, representing Mort Blumenstock, Eastern advertising-publicity head, will speak on special merchandising plans worked out for Spring and Summer releases; Charles Rich, Central district manager, also will speak.

Branch managers attending will include: F. D. Moore, Pittsburgh; Joe Kaliski, Cleveland; James S. Abrose, Cincinnati, and Claude W. McKean, Indianapolis; Richard Stevens, field exploitation man, also will attend.

OWI to Propagandize The U. S. in Italy

In an effort to give liberated Italy a better understanding of the United States, an outpost of the Office of War Information will begin functioning in Rome today, press dispatches from the Italian capital, received here yesterday, disclosed. Thus, while military authorities are being withdrawn as quickly as possible under the Allied program to turn the country back to the Italians, a new civilian agency is moving in with the hope of becoming more and more influential in creating a correct picture of America and Americans, it was said.

Although the office opens today, under the OWI label, this will be changed to USIS (United States Information Service) as soon as the official go-ahead has been received from Allied Field Headquarters. This, it was learned should be forthcoming within a week or so.

20% Soft Coal Cut

WASHINGTON, March 12.—The supply outlook for the new coal year, which begins April 1, is so bad that even users of bituminous for heating will be cut to a maximum of 80 per cent of normal annual supply, the Solid Fuels Administration reports.

McKendrick With UA

SALT LAKE CITY, March 12.—W. W. McKendrick, formerly manager for Monogram, is now connected with United Artists here.

RKO RADIO PICTURES, Inc.
NEW YORK TRADE SHOWING
OF
"TARZAN and the AMAZONS"
FRIDAY, March 16, at 2:30 P.M.
RKO Projection Room, 630 Ninth Ave., New York, N. Y.

Pat O'BRIEN . . *George* MURPHY . . *Carole* LANDIS

COLLECT AT EVERY SHOW!
RED CROSS WEEK — MARCH 15–21

WITH LENORE AUBERT

Produced by Robert Fellow

ON A HONEYMOON! and what fun!

RKO's racy eye-and-earful of murder and mirth—with bride, groom and best-man "wolf" super-sleuthing the clues and the cuties at a swank resort where *such* things should never happen!

Having Wonderful Crime

Yes, it's Chili Williams with all her dots and lots of dash!

Directed by Eddie Sutherland

Screen Play by Howard J. Green, Stewart Sterling and Parke Levy

RKO RADIO PICTURES

Production Is Down to 37; Only 4 Start

HOLLYWOOD, March 12.—Production continues its downward trend as 11 pictures were completed and only four went before cameras. As of the weekend, before the studio strike, there were 37 features in work. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Shootings "Rhythm Roundup," "Over 21," "Kiss and Tell" (Siegel).

M-G-M

Shooting: "They Were Expendable," "Dangerous Partners," "Early to Wed," "Yolanda and the Thief," "The Harvey Girls."

Monogram

Started: "Here Comes Trouble," with Billy Gilbert, Shemp Howard, Maxie Rosenbloom.
Shooting: "Divorce."

Paramount

Started: "The Blue Dahlia," with Alan Ladd, Veronica Lake, William Bendix, Billy DeWolfe, Doris Dowling; "Our Hearts Were Growing Up," with Gail Russell, Diana Lynn, Bill Edwards, Brian Donlevy, James Brown, William Demarest, Billy DeWolfe.
Shooting: "The Well Groomed Bride," "Masquerade in Mexico," "You Came Along" (Hal Wallis).

PRC

Finished: "Highway to Hell."
Shooting: "Why Girls Leave Home" (Sam Sax).

RKO Radio

Finished: "Falcon in San Francisco," "First Man Into Tokyo," "The Most Dangerous Game," "Invisible Army."
Shooting: "George White's Scandals of 1945," "Man Alive," "The Bells of St. Mary's" (Rainbow Productions).

Republic

Finished: "Girls of the Big House."
Shooting: "Trail of Kit Carson," "The Amazing Mr. M."

20th Century-Fox

Finished: "Captain Eddie."
Shooting: "Within These Walls," "Dragonwyck," "Junior Miss," "The Dolly Sisters," "State Fair," "Ten Little Indians" (Popular Pictures).

United Artists

Finished: "Paris — Underground" (Bennett).
Shooting: "Captain Kidd" (Bogeaus); "Young Widow" (Stromberg); "Duel in the Sun" (Vanguard).

Universal

Finished: "The Naughty Nineties."
Started: "Serenade for Murder," with Jess Barker, Lois Collier, Fuzzy Knight, George Dolenz.
Shooting: "Pillow of Death," "Men in Her Diary," "Lady on a Train," "A Night in Paradise."

Warners

Finished: "Too Young to Know," "Mildred Pierce."
Shooting: "Stolen Life," "Shadow of a Woman."

Studio Strike Halts 75% Of Production on 1st Day

(*Continued from page* 1)

continued production after IATSE Lamp Operators Local 728 replaced an IBEW staff in charge of the generators. Columbia, meeting the situation similarly, continued shooting on three.

Paramount, where IBEW electricians serviced the generators because an Army training film was in production, continued production on four features.

Meanwhile, National Labor Relations Board hearings, started last week, continued in progress, with representatives of the producers, Set Decorators and IATSE giving testimony on the basis of which NLRB will determine whether an election to determine the appropriate bargaining agency is warranted.

Painters Local 421 joined the Set Decorators on the picket lines following a special membership meeting this morning.

SAG Meeting

The Screen Actors Guild board was meeting tonight to set a date, within two or three days, for a membership meeting to vote on whether to support the strike. Meanwhile, SAG advised its members to consult their own wishes regarding crossing the picket lines.

The Screen Directors Guild board also was meeting tonight to determine its position and procedure. Directors worked where possible today.

The Screen Publicists Guild, a conference of Studio Unions affiliate, was in session tonight, with a complete walkout a certainty. SPG units at Paramount, Columbia, Universal and 20th Century-Fox walked out at noon following individual meetings at which it was decided to respect the picket lines.

The Screen Office Employees Guild was in session tonight, with indication of a complete walkout tomorrow. Like the publicists, about half the SOEG members stayed out today.

The statement of the producers said that they were "powerless to prevent" the strike. "We have taken and are taking every possible step to secure a decision by the War Labor Board and the National Labor Relations Board which will settle the dispute," the statement said, adding: "We have urged and are urging our employes to await this legal determination."

Mass Meet Sunday

Today's strike action followed Sorrell's announcement to a mass meeting of all unions here last night, when he said Local 1421 would picket the studios, with the machinists', carpenters', painters', office employees', cartoonists and players' unions pledged to give support. The action was taken for the declared purpose of forcing the producers to obey a War Labor Board order to deal with the set decorators' local, pending the outcome of hearings in progress before the National Labor Relations Board, but Sorrell asserted the strike would be maintained until the issues pending between the producers and other CSU locals were also settled.

The strike was called in disregard of a telegram from the WLB on Saturday urging against it, Sorrell declaring, "We must use the language the producers understand."

Monogram, PRC, Walt Disney and Technicolor were specifically exempted from the picketing because they had agreed to "go along" with CSU.

Vetluguin Tops MGM Studio Writer Board

CULVER CITY, Cal., March 12.—Voldemar Vetluguin, formerly an editor of *Redbook Magazine*, and a well-known writer before joining Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer here in an editorial capacity, two years ago, has been made chairman of the studio's editorial board. Others on the board include William Fadiman, Nat Wolff, Frances Marion, Adela Rogers St. Johns and Harriett Fran.

Vetluguin's new appointment does not affect the status of Fadiman, who continues as head of the M-G-M scenario department, a position which he assumed three years ago after a long association with the company in New York.

Yardstick for Television

The average home audience for television programs is 5.6 persons, comprising 4.3 adults and 1.3 children under 18, according to a survey made by Ross Federal Research Corp. In public places there is an average of 37.3 viewers, 36 adults, 1.3 children.

Henn, Miller to Open

BUFFALO, March 12.—Fred Henn and Ken Miller will open their Little Seneca Theatre in a few days.

S. B. Warner Named Copyright Head

WASHINGTON, March 12.—The appointment of Sam Bass Warner, formerly head attorney for compliance, of the War Production Board, and professor of law in Harvard Law School, as register of copyrights of the U. S. is announced by Luther H. Evans, Acting Librarian of Congress.

Warner replaces the late Col. Clement L. Bouve, who died on Jan. 14, 1944, two weeks after retiring as register of copyrights. Since Col. Bouve's retirement, Richard C. DeWolf has served as acting register. DeWolf, who returned from retirement to assist the Library, will remain in the copyright office in an advisory capacity.

Mrs. Buckley Continues

ALBANY, N. Y., March 12.Word has been received by film exchanges here that Mrs. Christopher Buckley will continue to operate the theatres which her husband owned in Bennington, Vt., until his death. Buckley had a long career as an exhibitor in Albany and Glens Falls before he sold out and moved to Bennington, where he operated the General Stark and the Community. Mrs. Imogene Provencal, former secretary to Buckley, is acting buyer and manager under the present setup.

U.K. Stock Shortage More than Expected; Cut Seen Hitting 15%

(*Continued from page* 1)

Renters' Society and the Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association will meet here tomorrow in the forlorn hope of arriving at some means of accommodating both fields with the available supply; otherwise, playing time will be reduced, as appears inevitable. Distributors already have been advised to adjust their print orders immediately.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, on March 7, reported that Britain's commercial and governmental demands for raw stock exceed the available supply by 100,000,000 feet.

NSS Operations Are Changed by Robbins

CINCINNATI, March 12.—Changes in the local National Screen branch, announced jointly by Herman Robbins, president, and Arthur L. Manheimer, local manager, include inauguration of a preview service for theatres in this area, heretofore served by New York and Washington. Also, effective March 26, the local branch will service these theatres, previously booked by Chicago and Cleveland.

Bill Filger, salesman for the Salt Lake branch before serving in the Army, has been appointed Ohio salesman, succeeding Eddie Sonz, transferred to Chicago. Filger recently was discharged from military service.

Two C B S Affiliates Get DuPont Awards

Radio stations WJR, Detroit, and WTAG, Worcester, Mass., Columbia Broadcasting affiliates, and H. V. Kaltenborn, National Broadcasting commentator, were awarded the Alfred I. DuPont radio awards at a dinner at the Hotel St. Regis here Saturday night.

WJR won the 'large-station' award, and WTAG the "small-station' award. Both were for outstanding public service in encouraging, promoting and developing American ideals of freedom and for service to the nation and the communities they serve.

$5,000,000 Profit Is Seen for RKO

(*Continued from page* 1)

39 weeks of 1944 was $10,293,035, compared with $11,914,106 for the same period in 1943.

While the 1944 gross is running only slightly under 1943, higher excess profits taxes have cut into net profits.

Skouras Giving Red Cross War Benefit

Spyros Skouras, president of 20th-Century-Fox, and national president of the Greek War Fund Relief, will sponsor a program of entertainment arranged by the Greek division of the Red Cross 1945 War Fund at the Academy of Music, New York, on March 28. Stars of the screen, stage and radio will participate.

"Millions" behind this picture!

THE *Millions* WHO READ THE BOOK

Over 5,000,000 a decade ago. There is no record of the added millions since.

THE *Millions* WHO KNOW THE PLAY

A Broadway smash in 1906, it has been running somewhere in America ever since. One of the longest run hits of all-time.

THE *Millions* WHO'VE READ THE PUBLICITY

Syndicated features in 1400 newspapers . . . special stories in national magazines . . . avidly read by 80,000,000 Americans.

THE *Millions* WHO'VE HEARD THE RADIO PROMOTION

. . . already has been plugged for two months over hundreds of network-affiliated stations—and even greater promotion yet to come!

...with a cast of a *Million* laughs!

EDWARD SMALL
presents

BREWSTER'S MILLIONS

EDDIE "ROCHESTER" ANDERSON

DENNIS O'KEEFE

HELEN WALKER

JUNE HAVOC

GAIL PATRICK

MISCHA AUER

DENNIS O'KEEFE · HELEN WALKER · JUNE HAVOC
EDDIE "ROCHESTER" ANDERSON · GAIL PATRICK · MISCHA AUER
in
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS"
with
NANA BRYANT · JOHN LITEL · JOE SAWYER · NEIL HAMILTON · HERB. RUDLEY · THURSTON HALL

From the novel by George Barr McCutcheon and Stage Play by Winchell Smith and Bryon Ongley
Screenplay by Siegfried Herzig, Charles Rogers and Wilkie Mahoney
Directed by ALLAN DWAN · RELEASED THRU UNITED ARTISTS

Stars with Troops In Germany, Luzon

Hollywood personalities entertained American troops all the way from Germany to the Philippines in the past month, with 15 volunteer performers on USO Camp shows overseas tours, according to a Hollywood Victory Committee report received here by the WAC, yesterday.

First entertainer to reach the Philippines was Don Barclay, screen comedian and caricaturist on a six-month, one-man tour. Barclay was on Luzon, working among troops storming Manila. Marlene Dietrich continued her battle line trouping on the German front, and the Frank McHugh-Mary Brian group returned from a four-month tour which took them into Holland and Germany.

Boris Karloff joined a company of "Arsenic and Old Lace" in Hawaii, Martha O'Driscoll was reported in New Caledonia, starting point for the Australia-New Guinea circuit, and Charles Butterworth left New York with a company bound for overseas. Others playing the war fronts were Sam Levene, heading a Hollywood company of "Three Men on a Horse," Herb Locke, actor-cartoonist, Leone Maricle and pianist Amparo Iturbi.

Making GI hospital tours in February were Cary Grant, Kay Kyser, Alan Ladd, Wally Brown and Alan Carney with Evelyn Bell, and Akim Tamiroff and Leonid Kinskey.

Total Victory Committee record for the past month listed 1,264 artists' appearances, bringing the total since the war began to 42,727.

American Conference For a Free Screen

MEXICO CITY, March 12.—A statement on "the necessary freedom of motion pictures" has been incorporated into the Inter-American Conference, which reads as follows: "Inter-American Conference recommends that the American Republics recognize their essential obligation to guarantee to their people free and impartial access to sources of information.

"That, having this guarantee in view, they undertake, upon the conclusion of the war, the earliest possible abandonment of those measures of censorship and of control over the services of motion pictures, press and radio, which have been necessary in war time, to combat subversive political tactics and espionage activities of the Axis States."

Monogram Internat'l Corporation Formed

Monogram International Pictures Corp. has been incorporated in Albany, N. Y., to handle Monogram's export business.

No officers have been selected as yet, but Norton Ritchey, Monogram's foreign sales vice-president, is expected to head the new set-up.

REEVES
SOUND STUDIOS, INC.
1600 BROADWAY, N. Y. 19 Circle 6-6686
Complete Film and Disc Recording Facilities

Review

"John Dillinger"

(Monogram)

ALTHOUGH, in "John Dillinger," Monogram has a picture that will naturally lend itself to much exploitation, full potentialities of the highly dramatic material at hand have not been realized in Phil Yordan's script. The suspense and tautness that should be present; the buildup to a crashing climax that one expects, is lacking. Nevertheless, this will undoubtedly prove to be one of the company's better offerings for it has been given a strong cast and good production by the King Brothers.

Yordan's script sticks faithfully to Dillinger's real-life story and it is a rather sordid tale of a 'deadpan' killer with a primitive regard for the existence of others, who is launched on his career of crime by a bungling attempt at robbery for a frowsy blonde. The phoney romanticism with which gangsters have been invested in the past is completely lacking in Lawrence Tierney, who, although physically filling the part to perfection, fails to communicate any feeling of this sort. Tierney becomes leader of a gang of bank robbers, after he 'springs' them from prison, by deposing Edmund Lowe. A series of daring raids on banks in several states is followed by Dillinger's capture and subsequent breakout from his cell. Eventually he is trapped emerging from a theatre, betrayed by his 'moll,' and he is quickly cut down by the FBI.

Max Nosseck has directed many sequences in the rapid tempo of this type; Lowe is excellent as the intellectual crook who has nothing but contempt for Dillinger's crude resort to violence; Anne Jeffreys is an attractive blonde who is Dillinger's consort, and Eduardo Ciannelli, Marc Lawrence, Elisha Cook, Jr., and Ralph Lewis offer standard performances as mobsters.

Running time, 70 minutes. General classification. Release date, Feb. 23.

CHARLES RYWECK

Hertz Again Heads Bond Promotions

(Continued from page 1)

dustry's Sixth War Loan drive, and we are delighted that he can arrange his business affairs to devote the considerable time that the Seventh War Loan will require," Pinanski said.

"The Seventh War Loan will be the longest and most important campaign in the history of the industry. I am grateful that Hertz and other executives of experience and standing in the industry will be able to serve as my associates on the national commitee."

Browning Stricken With Appendicitis

BOSTON, March 12.—Harry Browning, executive assistant to Samuel Pinanski, national chairman of the Seventh War Loan for the industry, underwent an operation for appendicitis Friday night, here. He suffered an attack shortly after arriving from New York for a visit.

Browning's condition is good and he is expected to resume his duties at Seventh War Loan headquarters in New York in about three weeks. He is at the Corey Hill Hospital, Brighton.

Smith, Head of Akron Exhibitor Assn., Dies

AKRON, March 12.—W. A. Smith, owner of the Majestic Theatre, here, and president of the Akron Independent Exhibitors' Association, died suddenly Friday of a heart attack.

He is survived by his widow and two children.

Edward Durst Dies

HOLLYWOOD, Calif., March 12.—Edward Durst, screen and stage director, died last night of pneumonia and complications, hospital attendants said, after he had been found seriously ill in his apartment by John Carradine, actor. His age was 28. He had appeared in "Day of Glory."

Disney Plea Awaits Supreme Court Rule

WASHINGTON, March 12.—The U. S. Supreme Court today failed to announce whether it would accept the petition of Walt Disney Productions, filed last week, for a review of a decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirming an order of the National Labor Relations Board for reinstatement of an animator allegedly discharged for engaging in union activities.

In its petition, the company contended that while the animator, Arthur Babbitt, had engaged in union activities, he was not discharged for that reason and, in fact, had been reinstated following a strike in 1941, when the studio was reorganized, and was laid off only when the volume of production dropped to a point where curtailment of the staff was necessary. Babbitt is now in the Army, and in view of that circumstance, the NLRB order called for his reinstatement upon discharge from military service.

Wallis' 'Susan' in Paramount 5th Block

"The Affairs of Susan," first Hal B. Wallis production for Paramount, will be in the fifth block, Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, announces.

Other pictures in the block will include: "A Medal for Benny," "Murder, He Says," and "One Exciting Night."

A heavy magazine campaign has been set to coincide with the premiere of "The Affairs of Susan," R. M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director, announces. The picture will be given its world premiere at the Rivoli, New York, March 28, with national day-and-date key theatre openings set for Decoration Day.

Video Co. Changes Name

ALBANY, N. Y., March 12.—Cine-Television, Inc., incorporated in Delaware, has changed its name to Cine-Television Studios, Prentice-Hall, recording the change.

Films Included In New Byrnes ExportControl

(Continued from page 1)

of the committee is to examine all of the related factors which pertain to the capabilities of the United States "to export items for the support of the war, other than direct military lease-lend commitments."

While the committee is not made responsible for the allocation of materials now vested in the WPB requirements committee, or the WFA food requirements committee, Byrnes said in his letter, "The recommendations from these sources will come before the committee for evaluation and consideration in relation to transportation, our own civilian economy and such other factors as warrant consideration."

Primarily, he said, "our foreign commitments must not be allowed to disrupt our own economy to such an extent that its capabilities to meet its own needs, as well as the needs of others, will be reduced. This must include consideration of our own reconversion needs after the defeat of Germany."

Order Binding

Byrnes emphasized that under his order, "no agency of the Government may enter into formal or informal commitments for the export of supplies other than for essential military purposes such as direct military lease-lend and supplies in the wake of battle, to foreign countries, without first receiving the approval of this committee."

Crowley is named chairman of the committee, other members of which will be Assistant Secretary of State Will L. Clayton, Capt. Granville Conway of the War Shipping Administration, Lt. Gen. Brehon Somervell of the War Department, War Foods Administrator Marvin Jones, and Capt. L. H. Strauss of the Navy.

Correction

MOTION PICTURE DAILY has been advised by Edwin Silverman of Essaness Theatres Corp., Chicago, that a story published in the issue of Feb. 26 concerning a projected meeting of B. and K., Warner and Essaness theatres' officials there to discuss elimination of double bills from weekend programs as a result of the midnight curfew, was incorrect. No meeting of the three circuits has been held or scheduled, Silverman said.

GLOBE TICKET
COMPANY
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Phone WAtkins 9-1486
PROMPT SERVICE AS USUAL

OUR MAIL REACHES NEW HIGH

Recently through the trade press, we informed our friends of the difficulties in maintaining our reputation for service under wartime conditions.

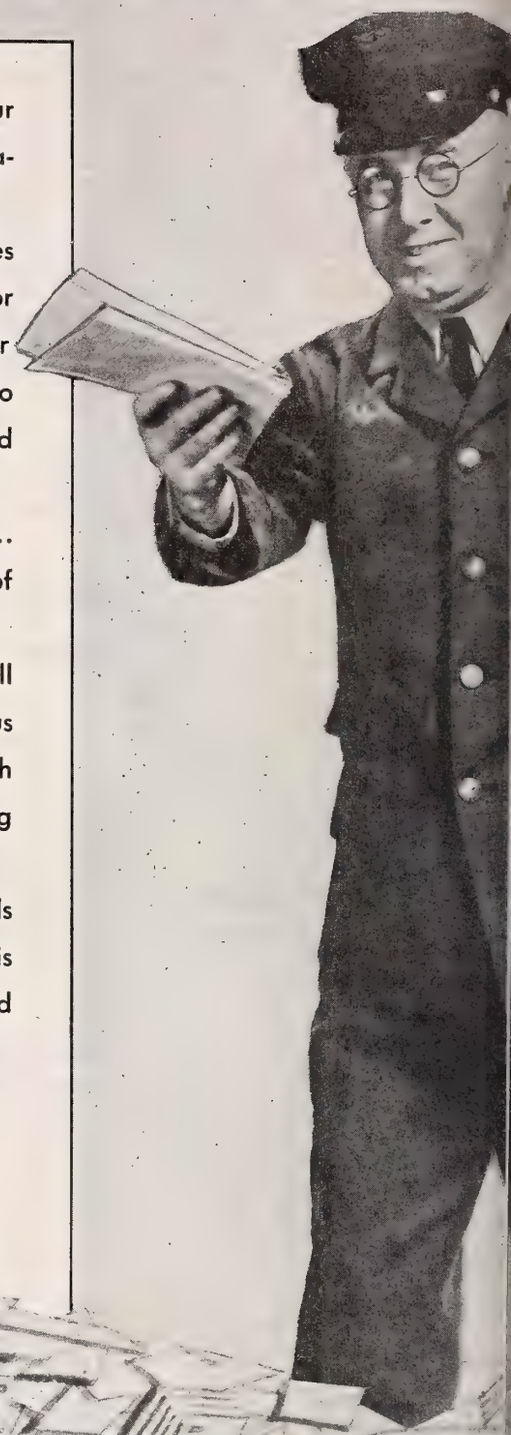
We explained that 504 out of 1600 employees (It is at this date 511 out of 1600 employees) . . . or practically one out of every three . . . are away or military duty . . . and that we are trying hard to carry on until they come back . . . In short we said . . . "Mister, have a heart!"

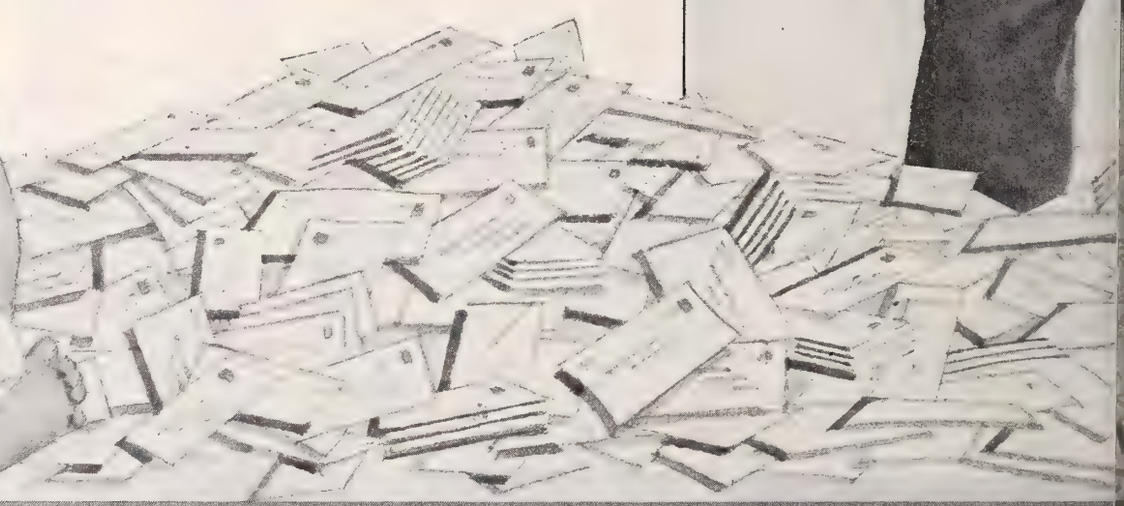
We never doubted the nature of your response... but the "heart" shown since in your avalanche of letters . . . has positively overwhelmed us.

Very soon, let us hope, the dawn of Peace will arrive, with our old employees coming back to us once again. Then better conditions, coupled with the effects of your cooperation, will quickly bring our service back to its old high standard.

We are naturally grateful to you—our old friends —for your understanding and cooperation. It is this fine, generous spirit on your part, that has enabled us to carry on thus far.

We most sincerely thank you.





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NATIONAL *Screen* SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

STANDARD ACCESSORIES • TRAILERS • SPECIALTY ACCESSOR

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 15-21

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 15-21

VOL. 57. NO. 50 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1945 TEN CENTS

OPA ASKS THEATRE ADMISSION POWER

Studios Limp Through 2d Day of Strike

Tri-Guild Meeting Seeks Plan to End Deadlock

By WILLIAM R. WEAVER

HOLLYWOOD, March 13.—Maintaining some production headway without extra players, carpenters, painters, machinists, film technicians and other worker groups affiliated with or sympathetic toward the striking Set Decorators Local 1421, the studios here ended their second day behind the picket lines with a prospect the situation's tightening tomorrow.

Still in progress at a late hour was a meeting in which committees from the Screen Directors Guild, Screen Actors Guild and Screen Writers Guild were striving to find a formula which would restore normal production pending outcome of the jurisdictional con-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Building Code Act Approved

ALBANY, March 13.—The Condon building code bill, introduced at the request of the State Labor Department and prepared in cooperation with an advisory committee including motion picture business representatives, was reported favorably today in amended form by the Senate labor committee, of which Senator William Condon, Yonkers, is chairman. The amendment to the definition of "place of public assembly" eliminates struc-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Postwar Gains for British Due: Cowdin

The attitude of British industry figures toward acceptance of their product in this and other world markets is a reasonable one, J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board of Universal, who returned from London early this week, said yesterday.

British producers, he said, expect

(*Continued on page* 8)

Walsh Strike Threat Faces All Theatres

A general strike of projectionists and stage hands throughout the country, to be called, presumably, if the Conference of Studio Unions should win out in its current Hollywood strike, was threatened last night by Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, who, en route to the Coast, telegraphed Local 306 here to "stand by for an order to stop handling or exhibiting any motion pictures made by any West Coast producers." Declaring that such an order would be obeyed as soon as received, officials of 306 prepared to stay in their office all night.

Prior to leaving here yesterday, Walsh told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that members of Studio Set Decorators Local 1421, affiliated with the

(*Continued on page* 8)

Schaefer to Cowan As Board Chairman

George J. Schaefer has joined Lester Cowan Productions as chairman of the board of directors in charge of world-wide sales. Schaefer has also acquired an interest in two of Cowan's films, "Tomorrow the World" and "Story of G. I. Joe."

Schaefer will continue as chairman of the War Activities Committee of the industry. He was formerly RKO president, and before that, head of Paramount and United Artists sales.

Schaefer stated that he felt the two films in which he has acquired an interest were definite contributions both to the war effort and to entertain-

(*Continued on page* 5)

IATSE Enters Home Office Field with Chartering of MPOE

The IATSE has decided to issue a charter to Motion Picture Office Employes Union Local No. 23169, AFL, representing over 800 'white collar' workers in the home offices of Warners, Universal and Paramount Sound News, marking the IATSE's entrance into the home office 'white collar' field. The move is understood to be a forerunner of attempts by the 'IA' to secure jurisdiction over office workers in other home offices, now represented by the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO. SOPEG has jurisdiction at RKO Radio, Paramount, Loew's, Columbia, 20th Cen-

(*Continued on page* 9)

Rank Boosts MOT's British Competitor

LONDON, March 13.—J. Arthur Rank has completed plans for world-wide distribution of "Progress Parade," Britain's rival to America's "March of Time." No expense will be spared on these weekly, two-reel features picturing the Empire's glories, with first release set for early this autumn, and they will receive priority over even large-scale features

(*Continued on page* 8)

Bowles Tells Senator of 'Extraordinary' Rise in Motion Picture Prices

WASHINGTON, Mar. 13.—Charging that an "extraordinary" increase in motion picture theatre admission prices has occurred during the war and that there is no assurance they will not increase further, Price Administrator Chester A. Bowles today told Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York that if Congress decided upon admission price control, the OPA could handle the problem readily.

Wagner is chairman of the Senate banking and currency committee, which is considering legislation extending the life of the Price Control Act, now scheduled to expire by limitation on June 30.

In a letter to the Senator, Bowles called attention to the fact that admissions and certain other "elements in the cost of living," including barber shop and beauty parlor services, are exempt from control under the Emergency Price Control Act.

"Public amusements constitute an important item in the average family's

(*Continued on page* 8)

VE-Day No Aid To Manpower

WASHINGTON, March 13.—The defeat of Germany will not bring about any material easing of the manpower situation of the film industry, chairman Paul V. McNutt of the War Manpower Commission warned today. Testifying before a joint Congressional Economy Committee, McNutt de-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Harry Novak Named 'U' European Mgr.

Harry Novak has been appointed Universal's Continental European manager by Joseph Seidelman, Universal International president, it was learned here yesterday.

Novak recently resigned as War-

(*Continued on page* 5)

War Labor Board Calls Studio Union Action a 'Pressure Move'

Washington, March 13.—War Labor Board officials today characterized the Hollywood strike as a "pressure move" on the part of a union favored by an arbitrator's decision to force the studios to put his ruling into operation without awaiting the outcome of a WLB appeal filed by the producers. That appeal, it was disclosed, had been scheduled to come up before the Board this week.

A spokesman for the Board said no response had been received to the telegram sent last night calling upon the strikers to return to work before it would take any further action. It was explained that the Board very rarely accepted an appeal from an arbitrator's decision. While no effort was made to forecast the Board's action, there were no indications that it would break its rule of upholding its arbitrator's findings.

Personal Mention

JAMES MULVEY, Samuel Goldwyn, Inc., vice-president, will leave New York for Hollywood on March 23.

•

ALAN COURTNEY, of Principal Theatres, Inc., Los Angeles, is in New York, en route back to the Coast from a Baltimore business trip.

•

MAURICE BERGMAN, Universal's Eastern advertising-publicity director, will leave New York for Montreal today.

•

HERMAN ROBBINS, National Screen Service president, has delayed his scheduled Coast trip indefinitely because of MRS. ROBBINS' illness.

•

MRS. NED E. DEPINET, will leave New York for Los Angeles Monday, to join her husband who is at the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital there.

•

NEIL AGNEW left Hollywood by plane yesterday for Washington to attend the War Production Board raw stock conference.

•

WILLIAM H. SAXTON, Loew Theatres Baltimore manager, is recovering from the grippe.

•

GEORGE RESNICK, operator of the Cayuga and Grant, Philadelphia, is en route to Florida.

•

STANLEY GOLDBERG, National Screen Service Philadelphia branch manager, is the father of twins.

•

HARRY J. SCHAD, head of the Schad Theatres, Reading, has left for Florida with MRS. SCHAD.

•

MAXWELL GILLIS, Monogram Philadelphia manager, has left for the Coast.

•

HARRY E. WEINER, Columbia Philadelphia branch manager, has left for the South.

•

JACK FORSCHER, 20th Century-Fox Philadelphia booker, has returned there from a Florida vacation.

•

STANLEY SHUFORD, Paramount advertising manager, will leave for Florida today on a brief vacation.

•

ARTHUR JEFFREY, International Pictures Eastern publicity director, is in Chicago from New York.

Philadelphia Leads Country in 'Dimes'

PHILADELPHIA, March 13.—Film theatres here led the nation in collections for the 1945 infantile paralysis campaign. A total of $139,020 was collected in the city's 220 film houses, according to Sidney Samuelson, head of Eastern Pennsylvania Allied, who was co-chairman of the theatre phase of the drive with Ted Schlanger, Warner Circuit zone head, here.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

ARGUING for independent exhibitors on print shortages under the WPB limitation of 285 copies per release, Abram F. Myers has furnished Stanley Adams, head of the Consumer Durable Goods Division, assorted reasons why trouble may loom ahead. Among the suggestions advanced in the cause of saving precious raw stock for conversion into additional prints was this: "Elimination of useless film credits—only the title, cast and names of the producer and director are of possible interest." General Counsel Myers thereby tossed a live firebrand into a waiting cauldron.

Outside Hollywood, film credits mean little; but the question here is if any contrary purpose ever existed. Inside Hollywood, it is a vastly different matter, provided one who has just departed the scene for a while may be accepted as knowing what he is commenting upon. Outside the center of production, it must appear a strange piece of business to argue over, and insist upon, credits on that screen. Inside the place where they make them, sufficient is the cause to fight to the last ditch.

■

After all these years, the credo in Hollywood continues stalwart and undimmed. You are still as good as your last picture and, if your last one had an odor surrounding it, at least you had a last picture. Writers who start a script and then finish with the aid of another have been known to seek adjudication from a Screen Writer's Guild committee which exists for such a purpose. Players in actual demand or in inflated demand because there is no one else available, make certain about billings on the screen, in advertising and in billboards by writing the mandate into contracts.

It is old practice to mark credit sheets with percentages in order to establish what name is larger than which and whose appears ahead of what. It is part and parcel of the system, ingrained and established. Studio heads will not add to the headaches of production by walking openly or otherwise into the proposal Myers now advances. They know better.

■

Some brave companies have tried running credits at the finish. This has been a device fabricated to placate genius on the snort and to allow an escape route for the audience. But the point is that, fore or aft, those credits remain immutable, unchallenged and beyond recall.

Furthermore, the total saving on all pictures from all sources would not make a dent of any size and would contribute only infinitesimally to the situation Myers seeks to relieve. However, when he goes beyond and suggests: "Reduction in the number of overlength features; greater care at the studios," he hugs much closer to the trail.

■

If and when producers cease regarding every film they undertake in the roseate light of a potential epic, and if and when they allow the length of their handiwork to be governed by the distance their stories normally require to be entertainingly told, the overlength attraction will pass into the desirable limbo of the forgotten. Another phase in the current cycle of production then will have run its course.

This will not come about over night. It will not come about easily, either. Metro, as reported, is trying to fix 100 minutes as its maximum per film. But no rifles will be oiled for the convenience of the firing squad if some of its producers vigorously insist it cannot always be done. Other studios are thinking along identical lines, but oil (art) and water (commerce) are difficult to separate.

■

It is well to bear in mind, as well, that Hollywood is a decidedly mercurial place in the communal barometer. A trend is simple to establish and not always simple to disestablish. One enormously successful film can do it. Should that film also happen to be unorthodox as to its length, the rest of the boys are off to the races. Figuratively in these days, of course.

Remember "Gone With the Wind"? Hollywood does.

■ ■

All-the-Way Department: "Producer Jules Levey will play a bit in his next production, 'The Homesteader'" — Hollywood news item.

However, Randy Scott stars.

■ ■

Warner readaptation of "Don't Fence Me In": "Orry Kelly is bedded with flu. Seamstresses are sewing around him in 'Stolen Life'."

Louella O. Parsons used it straight in her column.

Lowdown and Inside: It is reported Henry J. Kaiser has developed a pre-fabricated theatre for post-war launching. On a very big scale, too.

■ ■

It was foggy. It was damp. It was also bright and sunshiny. Not possible? But possible, indeed, after 13 uninterrupted months in Hollywood. To this one newly arrived, New York has lost none of its tingle, excitement and exhilaration.

Hollywood papers, please ignore.

$23,031,310 Kodak Net Profit for '44

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 13.—Eastman Kodak today reported its net profit for the year ended Dec. 30, 1944, was $23,031,310, or $9.15 per share of common stock; in 1943, the net was $22,270,403, or $8.85 per share of common stock. The company uses a 13-period calendar under which every sixth year contains 53 weeks; 1944 was a 53-week year.

A charge of $2,500,000 has been made against the profits of 1944 to increase the reserve for possible inventory losses and other adjustments due to wartime operations. Similar provisions were made from the profits of each of the three years from 1941 to 1943. This reserve now totals $12,500,000. None of these provisions was deducted from yearly taxable income in determining the liability for Federal income and excess-profits taxes.

Dividends declared in 1944 were the regular six per cent dividend on the preferred, and $5.75 per share on the common, amounting in total to $14,607,017. The balance of 1944 earnings, after deduction of the dividends, amounted to $8,424,293, and has been added to earned surplus.

EK's gross sales in 1944 were $304,752,063, against $277,892,394 in 1943. Salaries, wages and employee benefits last year cost $120,482,815. Taxes paid last year totaled $58,699,286, compared with $51,767,391 in 1943.

Goldwyn Back From FEA Mission Abroad

Samuel Goldwyn has returned to New York from London where he performed an assignment for the Federal Economic Administration. Goldwyn is preparing a report on his mission for Leo Crowley, FEA head. The nature of the mission, on which Goldwyn was abroad about three weeks, has not been disclosed, but it has been denied that it was related to the film industry.

'Tarzan' Shown Friday

"Tarzan and the Amazons," RKO Radio, will be given a special trade screening in New York and Los Angeles on Friday, both at RKO exchanges.

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COMING!
WALLACE BEERY
(he never lets you down!)

A very good way to repeat the business you did on "Salute To The Marines" is to play this one!

"Our World Premiere at Akron, Ohio, equals 'Salute To The Marines' and we're doing top business everywhere!"

M★G★M
SHOWMANSHIP
brings you

WALLACE BEERY
in
THIS MAN'S NAVY

with

TOM DRAKE • JAMES GLEASON
JAN CLAYTON • SELENA ROYLE
NOAH BEERY, Sr. • HENRY O'NEILL

Story and Screen Play by Borden Chase
Based on an Idea by Commander Herman E. Halland, U. S. Navy (Ret.)
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture
Directed by WILLIAM A. WELLMAN • Produced by SAMUEL MARX

1924 1945 21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP MGM

LITHO U.S.A.

Red Cross Drive Opens Here Today

At noon today, New York theatres will officially launch, one day ahead, the industry's 1945 Red Cross War Fund Week, March 15-21, with a parade and rally highlighting stars of screen and stage, plus 1,000 uniformed Red Cross volunteers, 60 pieces of Red Cross motorized equipment, including ambulances and mobile canteens, and five service bands. Stars participating in both parade and rally include: Frank Fay, Jane Wyatt, Franchot Tone, Miriam Hopkins, Robert Benchley, Florence Rice, Wendy Barrie, Mady Christians, Oscar Homolka, Hugh Herbert, 'Skeets' Gallagher, James Ellison, Roscoe Karns, Harvey Stevens, Victor Moore and Michael O'Shea.

Arranged with the cooperation of the Brooklyn Chapter of the Red Cross, the parade will assemble at Schermerhorn Street and Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn at 11. Grand marshals will be: Walter (Red) Barber, chairman of the Greater New York Red Cross War Fund; Col. J. H. Bigley, executive director of the Brooklyn Red Cross; Frank D. Schroth, publisher of the *Brooklyn Eagle* and chairman of the Brooklyn Red Cross; and Edward C. Dowden, New York public relations chairman.

The parade will be reviewed by Borough President John Cashmore, representing the city, and members of the War Activities Committee of the industry, headed by N. Peter Rathvon, national chairman of Red Cross week in theatres.

Increases Urged for Gov't Departments

WASHINGTON, March 13.—An increase in funds for the State Department to permit the employment of an assistant to Francis C. DeWolf, chief of the telecommunications division, and additional money for the Commerce Department which may permit an increase in the staff of Nathan D. Golden's motion picture unit, were recommended today by the House Appropriations Committee.

The Committee reported a four-department supply bill for the fiscal year beginning next July 1, in which the State Department will be given a total of $71,878,400, an increase of approximately $24,800,000 over the current appropriation, and the Commerce Department's $79,372,000, an increase of $6,800,000.

Also carried in the measure was a fund of $1,700,000, an increase of $320,000, for operation of the anti-trust division of the Department of Justice which will permit the prosecution of 22 cases which have been held up during the war and provide a staff to deal with the sale of surplus Government war plants.

Schaefer to Cowan As Board Chairman

(*Continued from page* 1)

ment. For the past two days he has been conferring with Bill Pierce, Cowan Productions' studio advertising director, with respect to the national exploitation and advertising campaign on "Story of G. I. Joe," with campaign details due to be released soon.

15,250 Sign In Campaign

With one more day to go before the start of the Industry's 1945 Red Cross drive, March 15-21, incomplete returns show a total of 15,250 theatres pledged to participate. This figure, reported yesterday by Leon J. Bamberger, national campaign director for the industry, is more than 1,800 ahead of the 1944 total of 13,434.

All territories have shown gains. Ten have hit 100 per cent so far. New additions are: Cincinnati, New Haven, Pittsburgh, and Portland, previous toppers being Albany, Buffalo, San Francisco, Northern New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Delaware.

Esmond Is Honored By State, Workers

Irwin Esmond, who recently retired as director of the motion picture division in the State Education Department, after 14 years, was honor guest of division personnel at a dinner, here, recently. Mrs. Henrietta Plath, chief stenographer, presented him with a $100 war bond, on behalf of the staff. Assistant Commissioner Irwin Conroe, named acting chief of the division when Esmond reached the statutory retirement age of 70, was a speaker. Education Commissioner George D. Stoddard sent a message praising Esmond for his judgment in administering the censorship law. Appeals from Esmond's decisions, either to the Board of Regents or to the courts, were very few, and hardly ever by a major company, it was said.

Speculation as to the identity of Esmond's permanent successor is rife both in New York and Albany. Dr. Conroe is unlikely to hold the post indefinitely, since as assistant commissioner, he outranks division chiefs. Esmond, head of the Education Department's law division prior to Oct. 12, 1932, when he took over as motion picture division chief, was originally a provisional appointee. The position could be filled either by a promotion examination within the Education Department or an open test. Maximum salary is $8,200.

Warners and Army Help Manpower

CHICAGO, March 13.—War-plant manpower quotas in several Midwest cities have been filled chiefly as a result of film tieups arranged between Warners and Col. John Niehaus of the regional labor office here, in connection with "Objective, Burma."

Tieups not only aroused home-front interest and brought quick response from needed workers, but resulted in the purchase of nearly 20,000 regular admissions to "Burma" by war plants in Chicago, St. Louis, Indianapolis and Lexington, Ky.

50-Cent WE Dividend

At a meeting of the directors of Western Electric held here yesterday, a dividend of 50 cents per share on common stock was declared. The dividend is payable on March 30, to stock of record at the close of business on March 23.

Haines to Hold 3 Warner Meetings

Roy Haines, Western-Southern division sales manager for Warners, will leave here to night for Chicago, where he will conduct to the first of three regional meetings in connection with the company's 1945 sales drive. The two-day session for the Midwest and Prairie districts will take place tomorrow and Friday at the Hotel Blackstone.

Haines will be joined in Chicago by Norman H. Moray and Bill Brumberg, arriving from Pittsburgh, where a similar district meeting winds up today.

Also participating in the Chicago sessions will be: Harry A. Seed, Midwest district manager; Hall Walsh, Prairie district manager, and the following branch managers: A. J. Shumow, Chicago; R. H. Dunbar, Detroit; Don Woods, Milwaukee; A. W. Anderson, Minneapolis; E. J. Tilton, Des Moines; R. C. Borg, Kansas City; F. J. Hannon, Omaha, and Lester Bona, St. Louis.

Others attending will include George Lefko, Chicago sales manager; Ted Tod, head of Midwest field exploitation, and field representatives Lucia Perrigo and Stanton Kramer, Chicago; Don Walker, Kansas City; George Wood, St. Louis, and Ed Johnson, Minneapolis.

Following the Chicago meeting, Haines will conduct two-day sessions in Memphis, March 18-19, and Los Angeles, March 24-25.

Kalmenson to Canada For Sales Conference

Ben Kalmenson, general sales manager for Warner Bros., will leave here today for Toronto, where he will conduct a meeting of the company's Canadian sales executives. Kalmenson will be accompanied by Ed Hinchy, head of the playdate department.

In addition to Ralph H. Clark, Canadian district manager, the following branch managers will participate in the sessions: Joseph Plottel, Toronto; Samuel Pearlman, Calgary; Grattan Kiely, Montreal; L. McKenzie, St. John; G. A. Matthews, Winnipeg; E. H. Dalgleish, Vancouver. Glenn Ireton, W. B. field representative for the Dominion, also will attend.

Gates on Eight-Month Latin Tour for Mono.

Bernard Gates, Monogram's special representative in Latin America, will leave here today for a tour of his territory, to visit all leading film markets below the Rio Grande. Gates expects to be away eight months.

One purpose of the trip is to cooperate with Monogram's distributors in launching the company's Spanish dubbed-in productions, of which six are now ready.

$500,000 for Building

J. R. Poppele, of WOR, here, is chairman of the broadcast division of a gifts Committee for the Institute of Radio Engineers' building fund, for $500,000 for the erection of a new building. Stations under 750 watts are asked to donate 10 cents for each watt, while those over 750 watts are asked for five cents, making the range $25 to $2,500. Dr. W. R. G. Baker of General Electric is chairman of the drive.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, March 13

PANDRO BERMAN will produce M-G-M's version of Conrad Richter's novel, "The Sea of Grass." . . . Alexis Thurn-Taxis will produce "The Lady of Mystery," next in Columbia's 'Boston Blackie' series. . . . Jules Levy is in Tucson, lining up exteriors for "The Homesteaders," his next picture for United Artists release. Randolph Scott has been signed for the lead.

•

Universal has exercised its option on the services of George Dolenz. . . . Jane Ball has been selected for the feminine lead in "Command to Embezzle," at 20th Century-Fox. . . . Victor Francen has been assigned an important role in the Warner production, "The Adventures of Don Juan."

•

Elaine Riley has been given a featured part in Hal Wallis' Paramount production, "You Came Along." . . . 20th Century-Fox has purchased "Johnny Comes Flying Home," original by Jack Andrews, and assigned it to Aubrey Schenck to produce. . . . M-G-M has signed Gloria Alvord to a long-term contract. She will make her screen debut in "Yolanda and the Thief."

•

Harry Barris has been added to the cast of Universal's "Men in Her Diary." . . . Lou Borzage has been promoted to an associate producership, and will work with his brother, director Frank Borzage, on all the latter's Republic pictures. . . . Mary Pickford has signed Mainbocher to design the costumes for her forthcoming production, "One Touch of Venus."

Harry Novak Named 'U' European Mgr.

(*Continued from page* 1)

ners' managing director for Argentina and Chile, a post held for eight years. Prior to that he was associated with Paramount in the Far East.

Before George Canty went to the U. S. State Department, Novak was Universal's Continental European manager. Ernest Koenig performed the nominal duties of this post before his death, from his Paris headquarters. Since then, and the occupation of France by the Germans, the post has been vacant.

Novak is expected to leave for London shortly, and will then proceed to Paris as soon as possible.

'U' Stockholders Will Elect Directors Today

WILMINGTON, Del., March 13.—Universal stockholders will hold their annual meeting here tomorrow to elect a board of directors. All present members of the board have been proposed for reelection, including J. Arthur Rank, Nate J. Blumberg, Paul G. Brown, Daniel C. Collins, J. Cheever Cowdin, Preston Davie, William J. German, John J. O'Connor, Ottavio Prochet, Charles D. Prutzman, Budd Rogers, Daniel M. Sheaffer, W. H. Taylor, Jr. and Cliff Work.

LEE TRACY • NANCY KELLY

in

BETRAYAL FROM THE EAST

with RICHARD LOO
REGIS TOOMEY

Produced by HERMAN SCHLOM
Directed by WILLIAM BERKE
Screen Play by Kenneth Gamet and Aubrey Wisberg

RKO's NEW
EXPLOITATION SPECIAL
—bringing to the screen
DREW PEARSON
that famous and fearless radio commentator
and newspaper columnist!

trayal
m the East

TRADE CRITICS AGREE!

"Powerful, well-paced drama of Jap treachery . . . Will hold its own . . . Forceful, suspenseful and believable."
—*Motion Picture Daily*

"This potent melodrama of Jap espionage in U. S. will jar fans out of complacency. Authenticity is imparted by Drew Pearson."
—*Film Daily*

"A rugged and hard-hitting espionage picture. Easily takes rank as a topline production in its field."
—*Hollywood Reporter*

"Swift, turbulent and exciting melodrama of Jap espionage. Calculated to fire audiences against the race which planned war against the U. S."
—*Hollywood Variety*

"Drew Pearson's introduction . . . gives a sobering air of authenticity. Good melodrama with satisfactory suspense."
—*Motion Picture Herald*

"Moving at a neat pace, and with good performances, it is a good entry for the top half or as a single where exploitation can pull it through."
—*The Exhibitor*

"Exploitable . . . timely and intensely melodramatic . . . Should do good business generally and clean up in action spots!"
—*Film Bulletin*

COLLECT AT EVERY SHOW! RED CROSS WEEK—MARCH 15-21

OPA Seeks Control of Admissions

(Continued from page 1)

budget," Bowles wrote. "From the standpoint of the cost of living, the largest item in this group is motion picture admissions, which have a weight of 1.7 per cent in the BLS (Bureau of Labor Statistics) cost of living index.

"Prices for motion picture admissions have increased to an extraordinary degree above prewar levels. During the period from June, 1941, to December, 1944, the increase amounted to approximately 38.5 per cent, or an increase of approximately six-tenths of one per cent in the cost of living index for the same period. In the absence of control, there is no reason to believe that these inflated prices will return to more reasonable levels or that they will not increase further.

"In the event that Congress decides that the prices charged for admissions to motion picture theatres and other public amusements should be controlled, the task will probably not involve a substantial increase in the workload of the OPA. In administering the tax law, the Bureau of Internal Revenue keeps complete information as to the prices charged for such admissions. This information is obtained from monthly reports filed with the bureau by every motion picture theatre or other like amusement enterprise in the country, and if made available to the OPA, would make comparatively simple the issuance and enforcement of regulations."

Laboratory Workers Organize in Chicago

CHICAGO, March 13.—Jack Grable of Wilding Studios was elected business agent of the newly-organized Chicago Motion Picture Laboratory Technicians (IATSE) here last night. Other officers are: Frank Olson, secretary of the Local Stagehands Union, president; Walter Tinkham of Burton Holmes, vice-president; Hazel Buddenmeyer of Holmes, recording secretary; Bill Stafford, Atlas Film, financial secretary; Herb Beeman, business agent of the Camerman's Local, treasurer, and Alan Moore of Holmes, sergeant-at-arms.

The organization, claiming a membership of 80 technicians, will seek an adjustment in wage scales.

Rank Pushing British 'March of Time' Rival

(Continued from page 1)

in the use of available studio facilities, it was said.

Rank's idea is to show England's contribution to world comity, apart from her military accomplishments. Subjects lined up for treatment include the sulphanilamide discovery, the nation's reaction to her universally anticipated collapse after Dunkirk, the peopling of her colonies, her public school system, etc.

For "Progress Parade," according to the plan, and with government sanction, Rank's filming units will have the use of dominionwide facilities. An advisory board of officials and experts is being formed.

Hollywood Limps Through 2nd Day of Studio Strike

(Continued from page 1)

test between the Conference of Studio Unions and IATSE.

The Association of Motion Picture Producers, which this morning took paid space in trade publications to state its side of the case, was also meeting tonight.

The Screen Actors Guild executive committee set Friday night for a membership meeting at which a strike policy will be determined; it also notified members they must fulfill all contacts for service pending that meeting, under instruction received today from international president Paul Dullzell.

Shooting limitedly resumed at all major studios this morning with the IATSE Lamp Operators Local 728 supplying electricians to replace International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers members who refused to cross the picket lines.

Warners reversed Monday's decision to "stay shut down until the strike is over," according to an Association of Motion Picture Producers' checkup, and had four companies shooting. Twentieth Century-Fox had five shooting; M-G-M, three; RKO, four; Paramount, four; Universal, four; Columbia, three; Republic, three.

Replying to War Labor Board chairman George Taylor's telegraphed notification that the agency would not take action while the strike continued, SCU president Sorrell wired a restatement of the grounds for the walkout and said, "We have no objection to the producers' appealing, even to the Supreme Court, but do insist that they comply with the arbitrator's order."

Studio Carpenters Local 946, CSU affiliate whose 2,600 members have observed the picket lines, met today and confirmed this stand; they are prepared to send members to join the painters and decorators on the picket lines.

Asked for comment on the studios' resumption of activities with IATSE men replacing IBEW members at the generators, a SCU spokesman said, "They can't go very far without carpenters, painters and the others."

Studio publicity department heads were without staffs today following a Screen Publicists Guild meeting last night at which a resolution was adopted asking the producers to settle the dispute immediately. No strike vote was taken, but the members stayed off their jobs, respecting the picket lines.

Senate Labor Group Approves Code Bill

(Continued from page 1)

tures used for religious observance.

General aim of the bill is revision and modernization of the State's standard building code promulgated in 1925. New York City is not affected.

As in the present definition, "a theatre" and a "moving picture house" come first. New language adds "any structure or enclosure where 100 or more persons may assemble for such purposes as amusement, recreation, dining, drinking, dancing or instruction except such portions thereof as are used exclusively for educational purposes and subject to the education law."

The bill makes other changes regarding enforcement and fees for filing plans and for revocation of the certificate of compliance. Annually, $10,000 would be appropriated for additional inspection personnel.

PCCITO Trustees in Annual Meet on Coast

LOS ANGELES, March 13.—The annual meeting of the trustees of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners opened at the Ambassador Hotel here today, with Allied's president Martin G. Smith and treasurer W. L. Ainsworth as guest observers. Trustees present are: Hugh Bruen, George Diamos, Rotus Harvey, Ben Levin, L. O. Lukan, Bob White and M. W. Mattecheck. The meeting will end Thursday.

Rodgers in Chicago

CHICAGO, March 13.—William F. Rodgers, M-G-M vice-president and general manager, arrived here today from the Coast for two days of conferences with John E. Flynn, Western sales manager. Rodgers will leave for Washington tomorrow for the raw stock meeting.

German End No Aid Manpower Problem

(Continued from page 1)

clared that present estimates of procurement agencies for the Pacific War will mean, at best, only a gradual decline in the demand for additional workers.

At the same time, the WMC chief told the committee that wartime controls are slated to remain in force for a considerable period.

"The close of the first phase of the war will not bring with it the almost complete termination of wartime controls which we erroneously expected last Fall," he said. "It is more likely that the national safety will continue to require a large measure of regulation over materials, prices, wages, manpower and the like."

Cowdin Sees British Gains in Postwar

(Continued from page 1)

playing time in this market for, and a fair return from, all of their pictures suitable for distribution here. He pointed out that the American industry expects no less for its product in world markets. The British industry is serious, Cowdin said, about making pictures adapted to this and other export markets, and may be expected to make rapid progress in this direction after the war.

Cowdin said he observed no evidences of serious support for discriminatory legislation or restrictions against American films for the postwar period in Britain, although the British Films Act (quota law) appears certain to be tightened up.

Theatre business is maintaining its wartime volume in Britain, Cowdin said. The raw stock shortage is as serious there as here, he reported, adding that material relief is expected soon after the end of the war in Europe.

Walsh Strike Threat Faces All Theatres

(Continued from page 1)

CSU, who struck in Hollywood Monday to force producers to recognize them, would belong to 'IA' or would not work in the studios if 'IA' had any say in the matter. The IATSE claims jurisdiction over all set workers through the Affiliated Property Craftsmen Local 44.

Walsh declared that the IATSE will make every attempt to keep production going, "even if 'IA' members have to perform those tasks regularly performed by striking Conference members, including electricians." He pointed out that 'IA' members will also perform the tasks of the striking set decorators. "Every effort will be made to protect the right of the Alliance members to work and help produce pictures," Walsh said. Walsh conferred with company executives here yesterday before his departure.

Compromise Remote

Possibility of a compromise on Walsh's demands appeared remote since Walsh even closed the door to a reversion to the previous status of permitting the Screen Set Decorators Local 1421 to operate as an independent union, a status it had before it affiliated with the Conference. Walsh had previously pointed out as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY last Jan. 29, that the question of jurisdiction over the set decorators was one to be decided by the National Labor Relations Board. He indicated yesterday that should the War Labor Board award jurisdiction over the set decorators to the Conference, the IATSE attorneys will fight the decision.

Walsh declared that the Conference move in calling a strike in violation of the AFL 'no-strike' pledge would not force the 'IA' to yield in its previously stated position in regard to the set decorators. He pointed out that even the WLB seeks an orderly settlement of the issues involved in the strike by ordering the strikers back to work before rendering any decision.

Industry Will Honor Admiral Wilkinson

Vice-Admiral T. S. Wilkinson, Commander of the Third Amphibious Forces in the Pacific, who last week received the Navy Gold Star in lieu of the Third Distinguished Service Medal for his service in the Philippine invasion, will arrive in New York on Monday to be honor guest at a luncheon to be given by leaders of the industry.

The luncheon will precede a preview of "Fury in the Pacific," at which the Admiral will discuss the Pacific War. "Fury" is a 20-minute film depicting the invasion of the Palaus Islands, an engagement which Admiral Wilkinson directed as Commander of Amphibious Forces. It is the first to be produced jointly by the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, and will be released March 22 by the Office of War Information, through the War Activities Committee.

The film was prepared by Navy Photographic Services, headed by Capt. Gene Markey, USNR.

IATSE Enters Home Office Field with Chartering of MPOE

(Continued from page 1)

tury-Fox and United Artists. The IATSE represents 'white collar' workers in exchanges in all cities except Los Angeles and New York, SOPEG represents several of the New York exchange units.

All that remains before the formal issuance of a charter to the MPOE is for its membership to ratify the move, at a meeting at the Hotel Diplomat, here, next Monday. Papers have already been prepared for formal application for the charter.

The 'IA' 's decision to issue the charter follows lengthy negotiations and conferences between Russell Moss, MPOE business manager, and 'IA' representatives. The issue was brought to the fore early this year when a newly-organized AFL international union of office workers sought to claim jurisdiction over MPOE, which has been a Federal office workers' union, holding a charter direct from the AFL.

It was said by union spokesmen that the MPOE's affiliation with the IATSE will give that office workers' union a stronger bargaining position and will help stabilize salary and job classifications among industry 'white-collarites.'

Altec Signs E. M. Loew

BOSTON, March 13.—Altec announces the signing of agreements to furnish booth repair and replacement parts for E. M. Loew Theatres in New England.

Bill to Put Censors Under Civil Service

Albany, March 13.—Senator Walter Mahoney, Buffalo, today introduced a bill providing that the director and officers of the motion picture division, State Education Department, shall be in competitive civil service.

RWLB Approval of Exchange Increases

Regional War Labor Boards have approved systems of job classifications with minimum and maximum wage scales and 10 per cent wage increases for several hundred film exchange office workers in Detroit, Dallas, Oklahoma City and New Orleans represented by the IATSE. The RWLB has also approved a 10 per cent wage increase for IATSE film exchange service workers in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The 'IA' and film company exchange supervisors met here yesterday to set an appeal to the RWLB on restrictions imposed in the cases of Dallas, Oklahoma City and New Orleans workers which would prevent the 10 per cent increase from going to over-scale employes; the RWLB had also ordered a slight reduction in the cases of head shippers in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

New Open Air Theater

MEMPHIS, March 13.—A new, 2,000-seat, open-air theatre is one of the proposed developments for the local Fairgrounds Park, according to preliminary plans submitted by Ackley, Bradley and Day, Pittsburgh.

RWLB Probes Labor Strife from Curfew

Anticipating possible labor difficulties resulting from the Byrnes midnight curfew order, which has reduced the number of working hours in the entertainment field, the Regional War Labor Board here yesterday held conference with employers and representatives of entertainment unions, including the IATSE, American Federation of Musicians, Projectionists' Local 306, and others.

The general tenor of the discussions was exemplified by the remarks of William Collins, AFL representative on the RWLB, who pointed out that the present collective bargaining processes available to employers and the unions, through contracts, will enable them to cope with any situation which might arise. Both employers and union representatives are understood to have backed this stand.

Industry labor spokesmen were at a loss to explain the reason for the conference since there has been no attempt on the part of circuits here to reduce booth or theatre personnel as a result of the curtailment of operating hours.

Fred Pursel Passes

TORONTO, March 13.—Fred R. Pursel, 66, veteran theatre man, died at his home in Simcoe, Ont., where he was manager of the Lyric Theatre for many years. A member of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, Purcel bought the Lyric 35 years ago and sold it to Allen's Premier Circuit in 1937, but continued to manage the house. Surviving are his widow and a brother, Harry A. Pursel, of Simcoe.

Short Subject Review

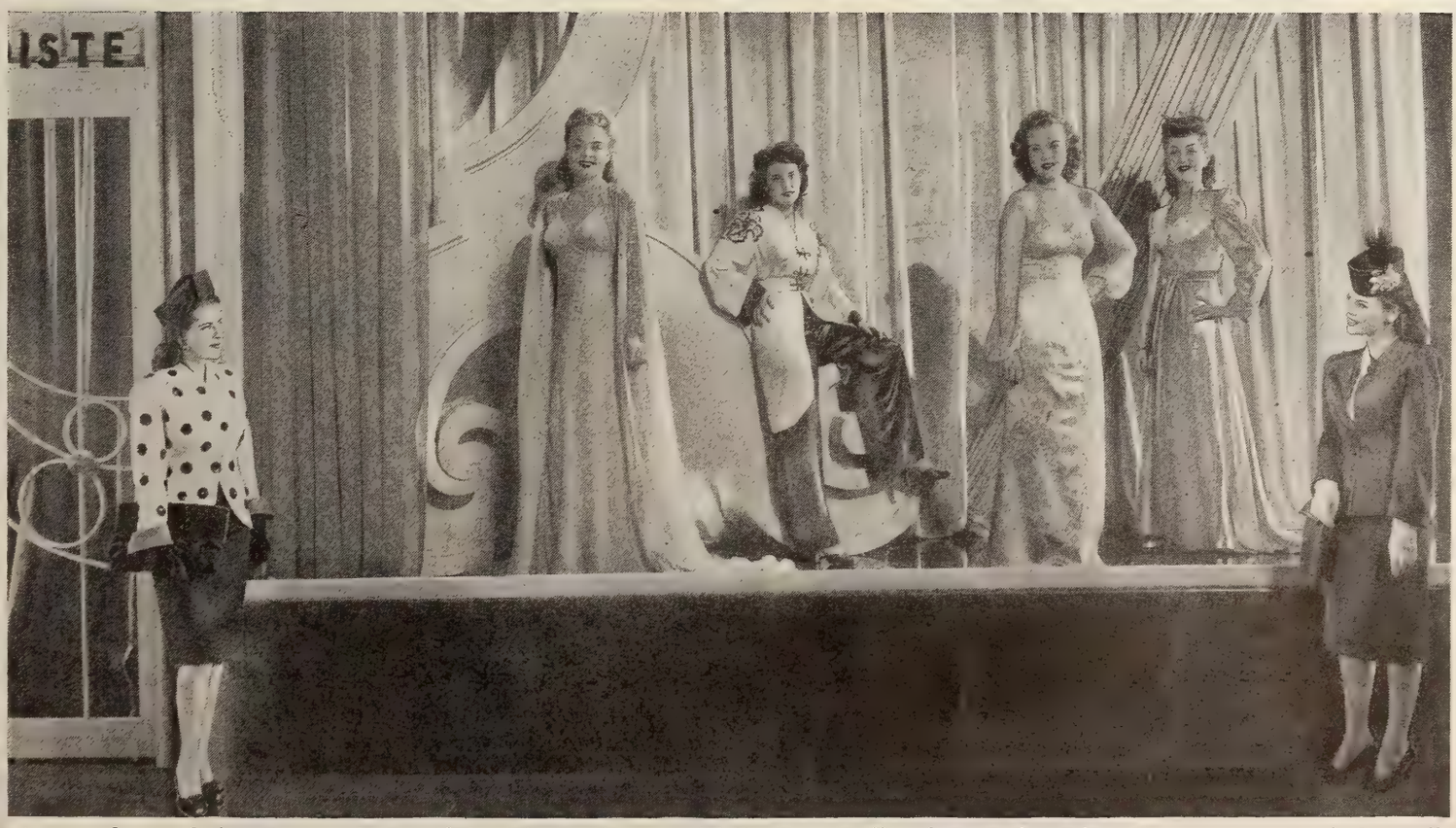
"The Enemy Strikes"

(Universal-Army-OWI-WAC)

A film of comparisons: showing the march through France, and telling of the optimism at home; relating the hardship of the soldier and the ease of the homefront worker; telling of the German breakthrough in Belgium, and the American rally; finally noting our current victories, and yet warning that the enemy may always counter-attack. The message, essentially that the last battle decides a war, is delivered with expert comparative editing, and a narration intelligent, sympathetic, and yet barbed. The German breakthrough scenes are from captured films; they are in themselves alarming. They show paratroopers young, husky, unafraid, certainly not beaten, and almost universally of a certain professional brutishness. Alone, they should convince war workers, to which this will be shown later, to stay on the job; and the general public, to which it is now to be shown, to pitch in. With the added impact of editing, and some dead bodies, this time of Americans, the short is of peculiar effectiveness. Running time, 10 minutes.

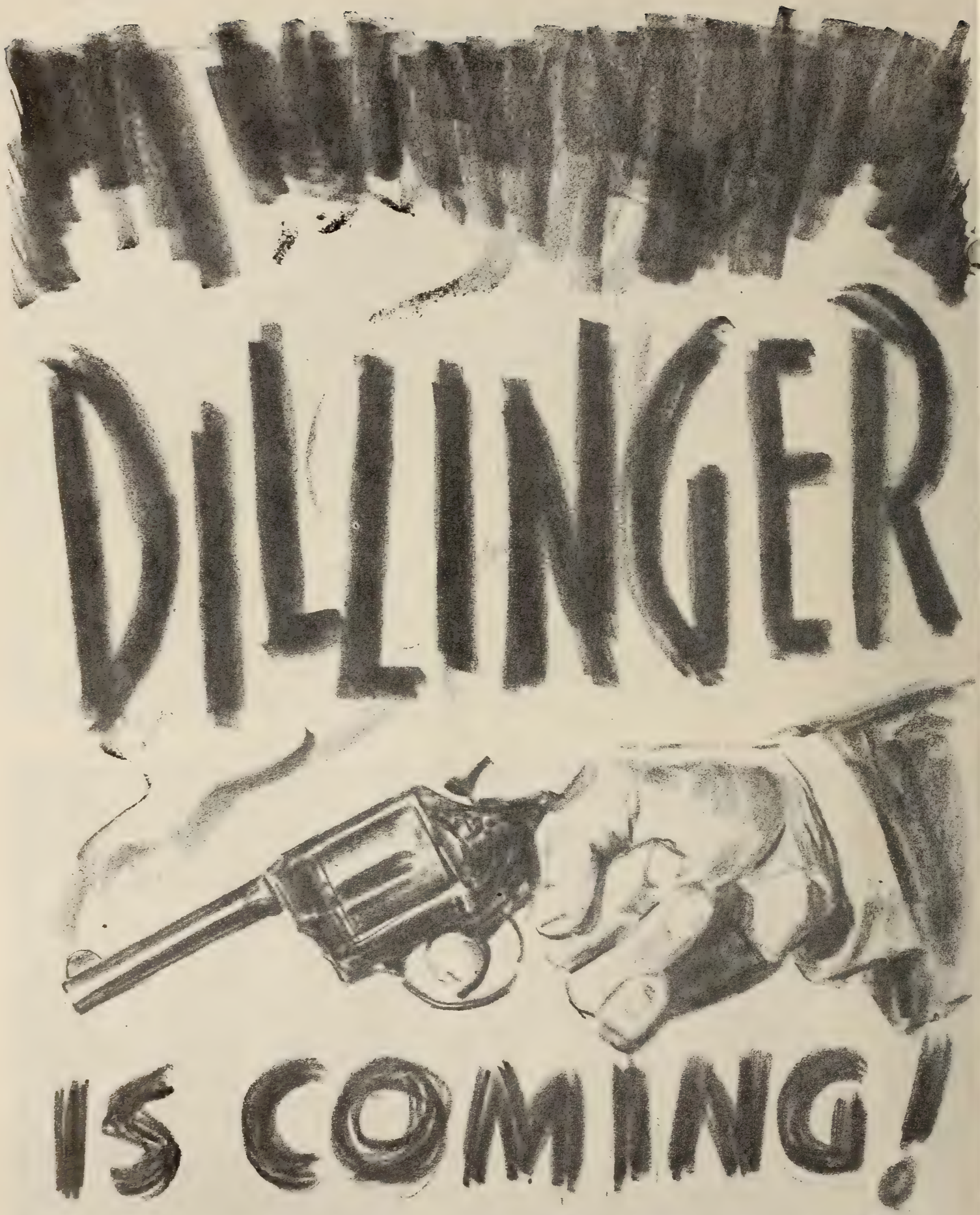
'On Stage' in Films

"On Stage, Everybody," on the Blue Network, will leave the airlanes following the March 28 broadcast, to go into screen production at Universal studios on April 16. Lou Goldberg, who conceived and arranged the deal between Universal and the Blue Network, produced the air show, and will be associate producer of the film.



Just a few of the "most beautiful girls in the world," personally chosen by glamor-master, Earl Carroll, for Republic's spectacular new musical extravaganza, "Earl Carroll Vanities."

ADVT.



The Greatest Gangster Picture Ever Made!

ON ITS WAY FROM MONOGRAM

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 15-21

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 15-21

VOL. 57. NO. 51 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1945 | TEN CENTS

Walsh's Move May Tie up All Industry

55,000 Involved in 'IA' Work-Stoppage Threat

A complete tie-up of distribution and exhibition throughout the U. S. and Canada was forecast here yesterday should the IATSE carry out the work stoppage instructions of Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president

Hollywood, March 14.—Commenting on Walsh's threat, Herbert Sorrell, CSU president, said: "He can't do it. It would wreck the IATSE if he tried to. His move is typical of Browne and Bioff, to whom Walsh appears to be a fitting successor."

in the jurisdictional dispute between Hollywood Screen Set Designers' Local No. 1421, affiliated with the Conference of Studio Unions, and the IATSE Affiliated Property Craftsman's Local No. 44. Walsh, 'alerted'

(*Continued on page* 8)

Canada Also Faces IATSE Strike Call

TORONTO, March 14.—The strike of organized studio employees in Hollywood threatened to spread to Canada with the prospective closing of many theatres through the receipt today of a standby order from the IATSE with instructions to prepare for a walkout of projectionists, electricians and stagehands from theatres where Hollywood product is being shown. Arthur Milligan, spokesman for the Toronto Local 173, said no immediate

(*Continued on page* 12)

6,777 'U' Prints To Troops Abroad

WILMINGTON, Del., March 14.—Universal Pictures has turned over to the Army, without cost, 4,122 16 mm. prints of Universal features and 2,655 prints of short subjects for free showing to American troops abroad, J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the

(*Continued on page* 8)

Producers Meet on Strike; Production Drags; Pay in Doubt

HOLLYWOOD, March 14.—With the producers closeted in a special meeting here tonight, as were representatives of the Screen Actors Guild, Screen Writers Guild and Screen Directors Guild, all seeking peaceful settlement of the three-day-old strike of Set Decorators Local 1421 and other Conference of Studio Unions affiliates, a checkup revealed that the major companies had continued production today on about the same limited scale as yesterday but that headway had slackened somewhat. New production was at a minimum.

The CSU threw a picket line around the Central Casting Bureau after hearing that the studios were issuing work calls to Screen Players Union members, ignoring an SPU pledge to observe the picket lines at the plants. This move was designed to prevent communication with the extra players, inasmuch as members

(*Continued on page* 8)

Alexander, Columbia Advertising Manager

William J. McHale, now with the Kayton-Spiero Agency, here, will rejoin Columbia Pictures in April 2 as copy chief, replacing Lawrence H. Lipskin, who will become assistant to N. B. Spingold, vice-president.

Sidney G. Alexander, who has been handling cooperative advertising and national media for the company, has been appointed advertising manager.

Academy Awards to Be Made Tonight

Hollywood, March 14.—The 17th Annual Academy Awards will be presented at Grauman's Chinese Theatre here tomorrow night. Bob Hope will be radio 'm. c.' The ceremonies will be broadcast over 196 stations, from 9:30 to 10:30.

Best picture of the year will be chosen from "Double Indemnity," "Gaslight," "Going My Way," "Since You Away" and "Wilson"; best performance by an actor, from a group comprising Bing Crosby, Barry Fitzgerald, Charles Boyer, Cary Grant and Alexander Knox; and by an actress, from among Ingrid Bergman, Claudette Colbert, Bette Davis, Greer Garson, and Barbara Stanwyck.

Goldwyn Hits OPA Control Proposal

"No one will dispute that both admission prices and film rentals are up, although the figures presented may or may not be correct, but I feel that if the overall rise in the costs of production, which are in excess of 100 per cent, are taken into consideration, no ceiling will be forthcoming," Samuel Goldwyn said yesterday at a press interview here.

Goldwyn declared that he felt cer-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Industry Sees Resistance To Bowles' Price Ceiling

Official industry spokesmen here disclosed yesterday that strong Washington resistance can be expected to any attempt to legislate price control of either theatre admissions or film rentals, as requested by Office of Price Administrator Chester A. Bowles.

Possibilities of such legislative controls are considered so remote in important industry quarters that there is no intention at this time of registering formal protests, it being pointed out that when Washington considers the related position of motion pictures in the field of 'communications,' to radio and the press, Bowles' proposal will be side-stepped, since it would be dis-

(*Continued on page* 3)

Red Cross Theatre Drive Starts Today

The industry begins observing its Red Cross War Fund Week today in more than 15,422 theatres throughout the country with more than 700 theatres participating in Greater New York and Westchester alone. This year's drive is expected to top by a substantial margin the $5,501,450 collected by the industry last year. N. Peter Rathvon is national drive chairman for the industry.

Wagner Sees 'No Need' for OPA Control

Cool Reaction to Move For Ticket-Rentals Lid

WASHINGTON, March 14.—A general coolness on the part of Congress to the proposals by Chester Bowles, Price Administrator, for the proposed extention of price control to the film industry, was evident here today. Sounding the keynote of the apathy, Chairman Robert F. Wagner, Senator from New York, said today that Senate Banking Committee members are "generally of the opinion that they know of no reason for bringing motion picture and other amusement tickets under price control."

Wagner made the statement after the committee had discussed in a closed session a letter from Bowles, proposing the control. "We invited Mr. Bowles to appear before the committee next Tuesday to discuss his proposal," Wagner added. Wagner

(*Continued on page* 12)

Warners Open 6 of 8 French Branches

Six of the eight Warner branches in France are now operating, with the other two expected to be reopened shortly, according to a cablegram received here yesterday by the company from Joseph S. Hummel, vice-president of Warner's foreign unit, who arrived in Paris recently.

Reporting on the condition of the Paris headquarters, Hummel said that except for a few leaks caused by anti-

(*Continued on page* 3)

Weitman in Charge Of 7th Bond Events

Appointment of Robert M. Weitman, managing director of the New York Paramount Theatre, as national industry chairman of special events for the Seventh War Loan, was announced here yesterday by Samuel Pinanski, national chairman. He will direct the work of stimulating enthusiasm for War Bond buying through special activities, such as large bond shows. Pinanski

(*Continued on page* 3)

Personal Mention

NATE B. SPINGOLD, Columbia vice-president, will leave New York for Florida tomorrow.

•

LT. STANLEY F. HODES, son of HAL HODE of Columbia, has returned to the United States after 21 months' service overseas.

•

HARRY M. KALMINE, Warner Theatres assistant general manager, will return to New York tomorrow from Pittsburgh.

•

GEORGE DEMBOW, National Screen Service vice-president and general sales manager, is vacationing at Boca Raton, Fla.

•

LEONARD H. GOLDENSON, Paramount theatre head, will return to New York tomorrow from Florida.

•

GEORGE ARCHIBALD, British Information Services official, has arrived in New York from London.

•

SI SEADLER, M-G-M advertising manager, will leave for the Coast next Thursday.

Bergman, McCarthy On Canada Promotion

Maurice Bergman, Universal's Eastern advertising-publicity director, left here yesterday for Montreal with F. J. A. McCarthy, Universal Southern and Canadian division manager, in connection with the 'star-building' program now underway by the company in the U. S.

The advertising plan now being effected for exhibitors throughout cities here will be planned also for Canada.

Novak to New Paris Post Late in March

Harry Novak, new Continental supervisor for Universal, as reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday, who will make his headquarters in Paris, plans to leave for France at the end of March and upon his arrival there, he will assume immediate supervision of France and her colonies, Luxembourg, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

Rank 'Blimp' Dinner

The Jock Lawrence publicity organization, press representative of the Rank organization in the U. S., will give an 'English dinner' for the press tomorrow evening at the '21' Club, here, following which a screening will be held at United Artists' home office of J. Arthur Rank's "Colonel Blimp."

Charles Denny to FCC

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Charles R. Denny, Jr., was nominated today by President Roosevelt to membership on the Federal Communication Commission. Denny, FCC general counsel for over two years, will succeed T. A. M. Craven, who resigned June 30.

Photo Equipment Orders Made Easier

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Manufacturers of restricted photographic equipment and accessories were today authorized by the War Production Board, after rated orders are met, to fill non-military orders for less than $500 without special authorization or preference rating.

The WPB explained that while preference ratings are not now required on orders for less than $500, only high preference ratings assure prompt delivery and delivery on orders bearing AA-4 and lower ratings frequently is delayed as much as 12 or 18 months.

Included in the photographic equipment on which the requirements are relaxed through an amendment to limitation order L-267, effective immediately, are motion picture cameras, projectors other than 35 mm., camera accessories, eight and 16 mm projection accessories, and mounted lenses, except those for 35 mm projectors.

Previously, delivery for non-military purposes of items in excess of $10 in cost, other than repair and replacement parts, was permitted only on orders bearing a preference rating of AA-5 or higher, or orders authorized on form WPB-1319. The actual non-military delivery of orders for $500 or more will be permitted only on WPB authorization.

RKO Makes Changes In Foreign Staff

RKO Radio yesterday announced changes in the company's foreign staff.

Mark Raymon, formerly of the St. Louis office, has been appointed manager for Puerto Rico, replacing Ned S. Seckler, who has been transferred to Panama, and Fred S. Gulbransen, former manager for Panama before the appointment of Ned Seckler, has been transferred to Chile, replacing Rene Beja as manager. Beja is awaiting a new assignment.

Knust, Herrera Get 20th Foreign Posts

Murray Silverstone, president of 20th Century-Fox International Corp., here, announces two appointments in overseas branches. Karl Knust, manager of Ecuador, has been named manager of Chile, and Carlos Herrera of the Mexican organization has been appointed manager of Ecuador.

Both appointments are to take effect immediately.

'Love' at Music Hall

The institutional Easter program of Radio City Music Hall will open next Thursday and will feature the world premiere of "Without Love," plus the theatre's annual Easter stage show, "Glory of Easter."

'U' Releases Documentary

"The Enemy Strikes," documentary dealing with the "battle for the bulge" in Europe, last December, will be released simultaneously in 700 theatres in the U. S. today by Universal.

British Nine-Month Tax $118,000,000

LONDON, March 14.—Entertainment taxes paid by the film industry to the British government during the nine months ended Dec. 31, 1944, totalled $118,000,000, the Treasury's financial secretary revealed in the House of Commons here today. This compares with $18,000,000 received from all other forms of entertainment, he said. Other types of taxation paid by the industry are not included in the figures.

Zukor, Israel, Mayer At Red Cross Rally

A plea for the support of the Red Cross was delivered by Arthur Mayer, Deputy Commissioner of the Red Cross in the Pacific Ocean areas, at a rally launching a Red Cross War Fund Drive among Paramount employes in the home office yesterday.

Mayer paid tribute to three of Paramount who are serving the American Red Cross, Stanton Griffis, chairman of the executive committee, on leave, who is Commissioner in the Pacific Ocean area; and two members of the board, Harvey D. Gibson, Commissioner to England and Western Europe, and Brig. Gen. A. Conger Goodyear, who is with Commissioner Griffis.

Adolph Zukor, chairman of the Paramount board, introduced Mayer and Arthur Israel, Jr., executive assistant to Barney Balaban, Paramount president, and chairman of Paramount's Red Cross drive, presided.

Showing of "To the Shores of Iwo Jima," a special 16mm. print of which was made up by Paramount News for the occasion, concluded the rally.

Hand Head of Rank Cartoon Organization

LONDON, March 14.—David Hand, formerly of the Walt Disney studios in the U. S., has been appointed chief of J. Arthur Rank's film cartoon department, Rank disclosed here today.

Hand will have charge of the production of British color cartoons for world release, aided by Mary Field's Rank organization for producing educational, religious and industrial short subjects. In addition, Hand and Miss Field will supervise special pictures made for Rank's children's clubs.

Columbia Signs Condon

Frank Rosenberg, director of advertising-publicity of Columbia, reports that the company has renewed its contract with Richard Condon, Inc., public relations, for special publicity and exploitation services on key releases.

Physical for Roy Rogers

HOLLYWOOD, March 14.—Roy Rogers will take a draft board physical examination Saturday. Republic studio announced that Rogers, 33, has been classified 1A. If he passes Saturday's physical, he will be subject to immediate induction, it was said.

Coming Events

Today—Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' annual awards, Hollywood.

Today and Tomorrow — Warner regional sales meeting, Blackstone Hotel, Chicago.

Today Through the 21st—Industry Red Cross 'War Fund' week.

Mar. 16—Industry Advisory Committee raw stock meeting with War Production Board, Washington.

Mar. 16—New York Building Code meeting, New York.

Mar. 17—'Depinet Drive' meeting, Hotel Statler, Cleveland.

Mar. 18-19—Warner regional sales meeting, Memphis.

Mar. 19—M-G-M district sales meeting, St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco.

Mar. 23-25—Warner regional sales meeting, Los Angeles.

Mar. 26—MPPDA annual board meeting, New York.

Mar. 27—Cinema Lodge meeting, Hotel Astor, New York.

Mar. 29 — Loew's annual stockholders' meeting, New York.

Lend-Lease Film in Production Today

HOLLYWOOD, March 14.—"Two-Way Street," short story of lend-lease, a contribution by Monogram and PRC to the War Activities Committee-OWI film program, will go into production tomorrow.

Charles Winninger will handle the narration, Lindsley Parsons, production, with prologue and dialogue written by Dr. James T. Shotwell, OWI State department consultant. A sequence of the film has been prepared by the Signal Corps Western Division Photographic Section.

Freeman Is 1st CRI Appointee by Groves

Harold L. Groves, field director for Confidential Reports, Inc., new industry checking organization, has appointed Martin Freeman, formerly a special sales representative for Monogram Pictures, as Confidential's district manager for the Central states.

Rosenfield, Wilbert Promoted by 20th

Hal Horne, director of publicity-advertising-exploitation of 20th Century-Fox, yesterday announced here the promotion of Jonas Rosenfield, Jr., to assistant advertising manager, and Christy Wilbert to succeed the former as copy chief of the advertising department.

The promotions take effect immediately.

'Dangerous' March 21

World premiere of the Charles R. Rogers-United Artists "Delightfully Dangerous" has been set for March 21 at the United Artists Theatre in San Francisco.

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Film Broadcasts to France Start Today

First of a series of fortnightly half-hour radio dramatizations of American films, in French, will be broadcast tonight over the national network of France, the Overseas Branch of the Office of War Information announced here yesterday. Series will be preceded by a 10-minute short-wave introduction, from Hollywood and Paris, with Victor Francen introducing Darryl Zanuck, Mary Pickford, Constance Bennett and Edward G. Robinson. Jean Painleve, Government representative of the French screen, will speak from Paris.

The project was conceived by the OWI as a means of projecting the American way of life into France. The The French unit of the OWI's Los Angeles office, the Hollywood Victory Committee and seven film studios cooperated in making the program.

'Heaven,' 'Dawn' First

First two films to be heard will be "Heaven Can Wait," 20th Century-Fox, and "Hold Back the Dawn," Paramount. Others scheduled are: "Shop Around the Corner," M-G-M; "It Started With Eve," Universal; "Ladies in Retirement," Columbia; "Now, Voyager," Warner's; "Suspicion," RKO. A half-hour variety show tonight will feature Dinah Shore, Morton Gould, Charles Laughton, Chico Marx, Ziggy Elman and 'Donald Duck.'

Recordings were made in Hollywood, with the aid of the Victory Committee and Boyer, Adolph Menjou, Leonide Moguy, Francen, Kenneth Thomson and Frances Inglis.

Alternating with the Hollywood program will be radio adaptations of French films produced during the past five years. It is expected that both programs will run more than a year.

Warners Open 6 of 8 French Branches

(*Continued from page* 1)

aircraft splinters the offices are in good condition. Practically all records, including advertising accessories, were destroyed. All raw stock and negatives and about half of the positives in circulation were confiscated by the Nazis. Furniture was about 75 per cent intact. Offices outside Paris were not molested.

Operations have been resumed with a few old pictures, plus five delivered to the OWI. More than 3,000 theatres are open, Hummel says, approximately the same number as before the war. Paris houses are giving one show daily, two on Saturday and three on Sunday, while suburbs have five shows weekly.

"The future looks good," Hummel added.

Weitman in Charge Of 7th Bond Events

(*Continued from page* 1)

said that Weitman has several national events in the planning stage.

Weitman, a veteran theatre executive, is presently observing his 10th anniversary as managing director of the Broadway Paramount. He has produced many shows for war causes and charity, staged chiefly at Madison Square Garden. The shows have netted millions.

Industry Sees Resistance To Bowles' Price Ceiling

(*Continued from page* 1)

criminatory to regulate one medium of communication and not others.

The industry, said the spokesmen, stands ready at any time to show that whatever increases have been made were not inflationary, or 'extraordinary,' as Bowles described them, but were, rather, mostly, in keeping with increased costs all down the line.

Leading distributor and exhibitor spokesmen here also took exception yesterday to Bowles' statements that theatre admission prices had risen 38½ per cent and film rentals had risen between 25 and 30 per cent since June, 1941.

There has been no greater increase in admission prices per person since June, 1941, than there has been in theatre operating costs and any additional overall increases in the amount of money taken in at the nation's theatre box offices since then is directly attributable to increased theatre patronage, exhibitors contend.

Peak Months Ago

It is generally recognized in the industry that the peak in theatre attendance was reached several months ago and that a decline in attendance either is in progress or is to be expected in the near future and that such a change is inevitably followed by a decrease in admission prices. Attendance and grosses have also been off materially since the Byrnes midnight curfew edict went into effect, which alters any statistics now in Bowles' possession and compiled prior to the curfew.

Any overall increase received by distributors on their films has resulted from increased patronage and hold-over engagements with better and more expensive films drawing more, distributor spokesmen pointed out.

Independent exhibitors, however, charge that while theatre admissions have increased only 15 per cent since June, 1941, excluding Federal excise taxes, film rentals have increased 25 to 30 per cent where pictures are bought on flat rental and the increase on percentage pictures runs much higher, they claim.

In his letter to Chairman Robert F. Wagner of the Senate Banking Committee, Tuesday, Bowles asked that OPA be given authority to control admission prices and when questioned afterward, added that the imposition of ceilings on theatre admission prices would necessitate similar action on film rentals. He pointed out that the new Federal excise taxes had contributed somewhat to the rise in prices but contended that "more than two-thirds" could be traced directly to increased charges by theatres.

Major circuit executives generally refused to comment on Bowles' proposal other than to question the accuracy of the extent of the rise in admission prices. They indicated that a thorough study will have to be made of the Bowles' figures and that the industry's answer would be forthcoming at such time as Congress may hold hearings on the OPA proposal to put such ceilings into effect. It was pointed out that Leon Henderson, a former OPA Administrator, had opposed price ceilings on theatre admissions on the grounds that the nation's theatres tended to act as a brake upon inflation in inducing people to spend money on a form of entertainment where a big portion of the admission dollar went back to the Government in the form of direct taxes, and relieved strain on the purchase or demand for scarce commodities.

Distributor spokesmen declared emphatically that the greater earning power of films resulted from concentration by the industry on fewer and better pictures which drew more money at the box offices and enabled them to share in this increase in business through percentages which have remained fairly stable. More money was being spent to produce fewer pictures, they pointed out, and production costs have increased for all films.

Spokesmen for independent exhibitors repeated their demand for a ceiling on film rentals and upon everything else including operating costs if a ceiling is placed on admission prices.

Other factors reflected in the increase in admission prices, it was pointed out, include the Government's additional 10 per cent tax which went into effect last year and necessitated adjustments of a few cents to bring admission prices to five and 10 cent units.

Other industry sales executives, commenting on Bowles' proposal to impose ceilings on admissions and rentals, declared no such plan was feasible.

Ceiling in 'Term' Sense

"I think Bowles has been misquoted," said one sales head. "What he is probably after, is not a rental ceiling in the absolute sense, but in a term sense. For example, let us say that X producer makes a film for $1,000,000, and sells it at a 40 per cent rental. Under Bowles' plan, the 40 per cent is all he could get for any future picture. This is obviously unfair if X producer spends $3,000,000 on his next film. He would then want and deserve a 60 per cent rental, for he would have a much better production and should be entitled to get his money back. Under Bowles' proposal, he could not, but because of the better film, the exhibitor, in no way responsible for the excellence of the picture, would secure the additional revenue from the interested public. That is not controlling inflation, to my way of thinking."

Another sales head commented that "Everything has gone up: distribution costs, production costs, theatre operations, etc. That there has been an increase in admission prices and rentals is undoubtedly true, but that increase is infinitesimal in comparison with the rise in production, distribution and operating costs."

$1,517,500 in Loans

MEXICO CITY, March 14.—Banco Cinematografico, S. A., the industry's own bank, has started its seventh year by granting loans and credits totaling $1,517,500.

Snellson in New Field

ATLANTA, March 14.—William N. Snellson, formerly branch manager for Republic Pictures, is now connected with the Mitchell Industry of Hartselle, Ala., dealers in stage draperies.

Book-of-the-Month Based on a Film

Distribution of a book a month based on a current picture, containing story and film stills, is contemplated by Leon C. Leventhal of Caxton House, Inc., publishers. The first book was "It's in the Bag"; the second, "The Picture of Dorian Gray," is just off the press.

Leventhal told MOTION PICTURE DAILY this week that he expects to eventually distribute through 800,000 outlets in the U. S., including theatres. Present distribution is through 115,000 newsstands with books selling for 25 cents and film companies receiving a royalty on each copy. Initial printing of "It's in the Bag" was 262,500 copies, according to Leventhal, who pointed out that he has the necessary paper as a book publisher. He previously published similar books which sold through Woolworth's with sales averaging 75,000 per book. Leventhal indicated that some orders have been received from theatres wishing to use the books as souvenir programs, while other theatres and film companies are tying-in the sale of the book with film promotions.

Leventhal had hoped to get distribution underway on "It's in the Bag" late in January but the freight embargo then and other factors delayed it.

Profit Distribution Of U. S. Films Hit

HOLLYWOOD, March 14.—Trustees of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, in the second day of their annual meeting here, adopted resolutions against the IATSE strike threat and profit-distribution of films made with the taxpayers' money.

Citing the war record of all branches of the industry, the resolution on IATSE said in part, "We feel that sober judgment on the part of the IATSE will not permit any action which would prevent the membership from cooperating to fulfill their obligation in furthering the war effort."

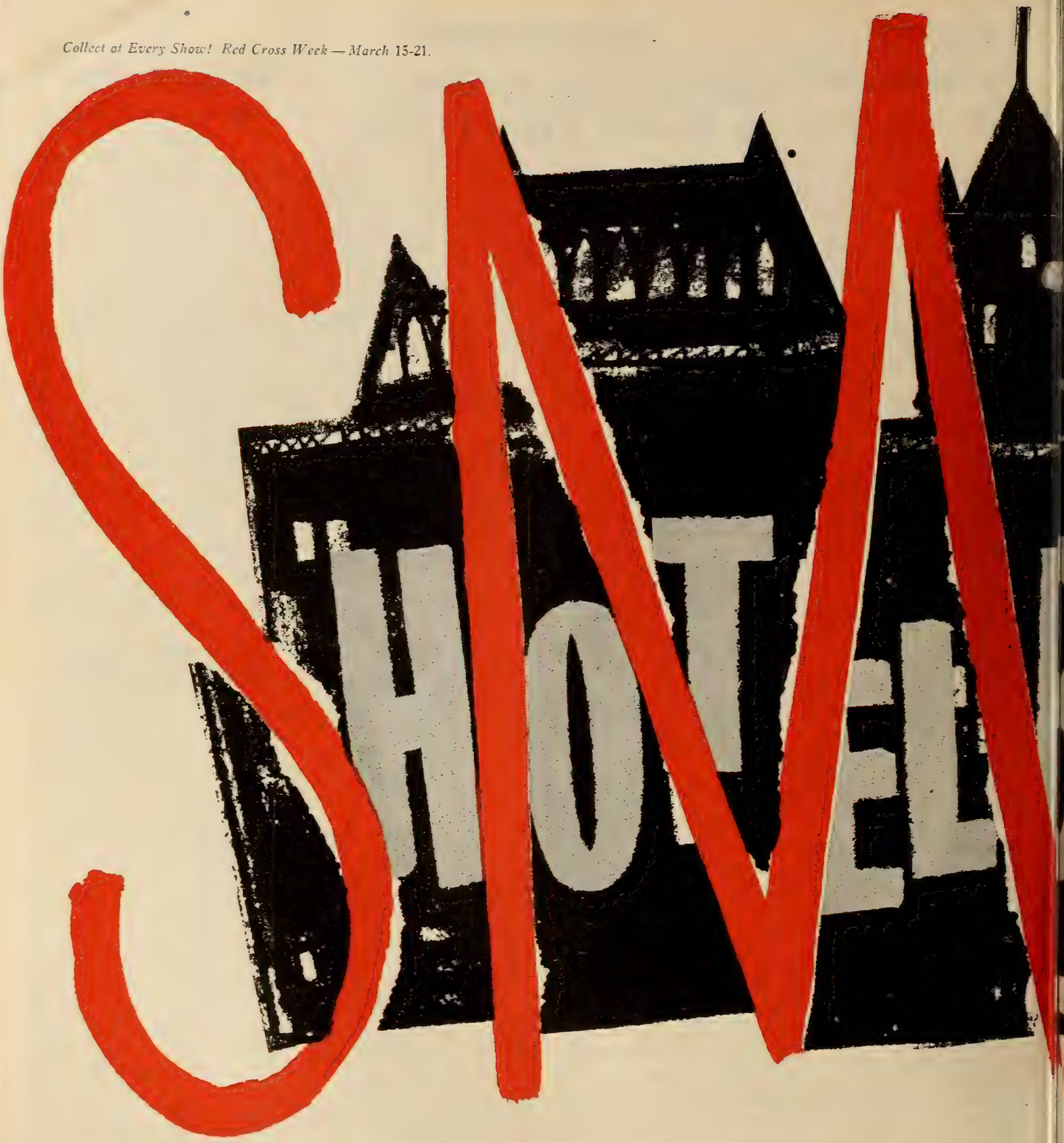
The other resolution cited 20th Century-Fox's "The Fighting Lady" as a film made with the tax-payers' money but distributed through regular commercial channels for profits, instead of via the Office of War Information and War Activities Committee setup, with clearances waived in the interest of the widest possible exhibition. It declared the companies now are bidding for similar control of a film about Iwo Jima and committed the PCCITO to urge the Navy and War Departments to present this and other similar films through the OWI-WAC.

The trustees also adopted a resolution praising the WAC for past and continuing service.

Comerford Loses Two

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., March 14.—Word has been received here of the death of S 1/c Donald Thompson, formerly of the Capitol Theatre, which occurred on the Island of Iwo Jima. The War Department has also notified Mrs. Rita Egan Kelly, former Comerford Circuit employe, of the death of her husband, Cpl. Charles Kelly, who was killed in Belgium last month. Cpl. Kelly, who was the father of a three-year old child whom he never saw, was also of the Capitol staff.

Collect at Every Show! Red Cross Week — March 15-21.



WARNERS RIP THE ROOF OFF THE
BEING RIPPED OFF THE N.Y. STRAND
WARTIME ATTENDANCE IN STRAND'S

From the book by VICKI BA

FAYE EMERSON • HELMUT DANTINE • RAYMOND MASSEY • A

Produced by LOUIS F. EDELMAN Screen Play by Jo Pagano

HOTEL BERLIN'—AND THE ROOF'S
FIRST DATE IS DRAWING BIGGEST
HISTORY, CURFEW OR NO CURFEW!

,and other sources. Starring

REA KING • PETER LORRE • ALAN HALE • GEORGE COULOURIS

Bessie • Music by Franz Waxman • Directed by PETER GODFREY

IT TOPS "THE WOMEN" FOR FEMININE FISTICUFFS!

★LANA TURNER
★LARAINE DAY
★SUSAN PETERS

in M-G-M's GRAND ENTERTAINMENT

"Keep Your Powder Dry"

Lana Turner • Laraine Day • Susan Peters in "Keep Your Powder Dry" with Agnes Moorehead • Bill Johnson • Natalie Schafer • Lee Patrick • Jess Barker • June Lockhart • Original Screen Play by Mary C. McCall, Jr. and George Bruce • Directed by Edward Buzzell • Produced by George Haight

A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

Collect At Every Show!

Red Cross Week —March 15-21

SELECTED AS THE PICTURE OF THE WEEK!
By **LOUELLA PARSONS**
On Nationwide Network
By **JIMMY FIDLER**
On Nationwide Network

THESE BATTLING BABES HAVE SCORED THREE KNOCKOUTS!

(and they've just begun!)

THAT CHATTANOOGA WORLD PREMIERE!
Smashed all-time M-G-M records at Tivoli. Move-over great at State.

THAT WASHINGTON, D. C. WALLOP!
They're packing the Capitol Theatre to watch those scrappy sirens in action!

THE NEW YORK KNOCKOUT RUN!
Watch the Criterion as Broadway crowds acclaim the hit that tops "The Women"!

KNOCKOUT! WORLD PREMIERE CHATTANOOGA

KNOCKOUT! WASHINGTON, D. C.

KNOCKOUT! NEW YORK CRITERION

FIRST THREE ENGAGEMENTS FORECAST DOUGH FOR YOU!

Producers Meet on Strike; Pay in Doubt

(Continued from page 1)

of the Screen Office Employees Guild handle central casting calls.

Also in question is whether studio payrolls will be met promptly tomorrow, pay day, without the aid of SOEG members who handle the cashiering and payroll departments.

The Screen Office Employees Guild last night formalized its pro-strike attitude, already adopted by most members, and today the office employees stayed off their jobs in force.

Beginning tomorrow, studio commissaries will be closed, Ed Flore, president of the Culinary Workers Union, having this morning ordered the members of that organization to observe the picket lines.

Following a telephone conversation with Herbert Sorrell, CSU president, L. P. Lindeloff, president of the International Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, rescinded a statement of yesterday in which he had described the strike as unauthorized, it was reported here. In Lafayette, Ind., however, Lindeloff denied he had rescinded the "back-to-work" order he had sent Edmund Musa, business agent of the Hollywood local.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—War Labor Board officials here tonight reiterated the board's statement to the unions that it would not consider the case until the studio strikers return.

So far as the national headquarters is concerned, all activity is concentrated in the regional office in Los Angeles, where efforts are being made to get the strikers back to work.

Walsh's Move Would Tie up Distribution, Exhibition

(Continued from page 1)

for a work stoppage, every IATSE local, with more than 55,000 members, on Tuesday.

The IATSE also has jurisdiction over film exchange workers in every exchange city of the United States. Service workers, including film shippers, poster clerks and inspectors are members of 'IA' 'B' locals and 'IA' 'F' locals have jurisdiction over exchange office help, except salesmen and executives, in all exchange cities but Los Angeles and the Columbia, Loew's, 20th Century-Fox and United Artists exchanges in New York.

The IATSE has jurisdiction over thousands of projectionists and other theatre employes, including stage hands in all cities, and it is considered unlikely that even theatres employing non-IATSE help would be able to operate since they could not secure film from exchanges.

May Hit Stage Shows

The IATSE has also 'alerted' all locals in legitimate theatres, indicating a possible tie-up of stage productions. Also 'alerted' were all IATSE locals in the East which process film and newsreels and also those engaged in non-theatrical production.

Some home offices of the film companies in New York would also be hit since Motion Picture Office Employes Union, which represents 'white collar' workers in Warner Bros., Universal and Paramount Sound News and is about to receive an IATSE charter, would also join the walkout, an MPOE spokesman said.

The Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO, and the Screen Publicists Guild of New York, which represent other home office 'white collarites' and all New York publicists, do not plan any action in support of either the Conference of Studio Unions or the IATSE spokesmen declared here yesterday.

Walsh Talks Two Ways On Order's Imminence

HOLLYWOOD, March 14.—Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, arrived here from New York by plane at noon today, accompanied by Joseph R. Vogel, vice-president of Loew's. He told MOTION PICTURE DAILY, "I have no intention of calling out the projectionists immediately," but later revised this statement, saying: "The order may go out tonight or at any other time, depending on the attitude of the producers and the Conference of Studio Unions." Herbert Sorrell, CSU president, said Walsh had not contacted him, and it was impossible to learn whether he got in touch with the producers.

"My principal purpose in coming West is to get IATSE men back at work, clearing our own skirts," he said.

Walsh said he has no intention to appear at the National Labor Relations Board hearings now in progress on the question of whether an election to determine the bargaining agency for set decorators is warranted. These meetings are continuing, probably all this week, independently of the strike and with no present bearing on the situation.

Laboratory Absentees

"My concern now is principally with our laboratory men," Walsh said. "Some of them absented themselves from their jobs on individual decisions not to cross the picket lines. Many are going back today; all will be back tomorrow."

IATSE furnishes about 1,300 men to the laboratories, of which the Conference of Studio Unions has picketed all except Technicolor. A laboratory checkup indicated that absenteeism due to the picket lines is slowing operations somewhat. Individual members of other IATSE locals have observed the picket lines on their own authority.

Establishing himself at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Walsh said he would spend several days "doing what I can to get production in the studios started up again." He will hold a series of conferences.

Gleicher to Coast

William Gleicher of M-G-M's home office sales department has left New York for San Francisco to attend a meeting there called by George A. Dickey, Western district manager, at the St. Francis Hotel, March 19. From San Francisco, Gleicher will go to Los Angeles, Denver and Salt Lake City, before returning to New York in about a month.

Goldwyn Hits OPA Control Proposal

(Continued from page 1)

tain that Price Administrator Chester Bowles would want to be enlightened on this subject, adding, "I am positive he will take no step before he is fully cognizant of the whole situation."

Goldwyn, who returned to New York from London this week, said he believes J. Arthur Rank, British industry leader, "will reach his goal, which is to have English pictures shown on every screen of every country in the world."

Questioned about the large backlog of films at the present time, Goldwyn predicted there would be no backlog a year from now, with the raw stock shortage principally responsible. "Pictures in the future will not have the long runs they enjoy now. Today even a fair picture has a good chance, which will not be true in the postwar period," he said.

Goldwyn declared that the exhibitor cannot take advantage of the public by increasing admission prices, since, if the prices are higher than the public wishes to pay, attendance will fall off. "I don't think the exhibitor is taking advantage of anybody. He can't, because no one can force a man into a theatre and have him pay a sum greater than he wants for entertainment he does not want to see," Goldwyn said.

The producer said that he advocated showing films for several days at the United Nation's San Francisco Conference to refresh the memories of the delegates. "I have talked to hundreds of English and American wounded. The one gnawing fear is that they may have fought and died in vain and that their children will have to fight another war. By showing the war from start to finish, from newsreels to captured films, we will place the delegates in a position to have their memories refreshed, and there is less likelihood of errors in peace terms."

Goldwyn will return to the Coast late next week. He will start production in May on "The Kid From Brooklyn," musical starring Danny Kaye. He emphatically denied he was seeking to form a distribution company, saying he was perfectly satisfied with RKO's distribution, and "I have no new ideas on the subject of distribution."

6,777 'U' Prints to Troops Abroad

(Continued from page 1)

board of directors declared today at the corporation's annual meeting of stockholders here.

Both domestic and foreign prospects for the industry continue good and American films can be expected to have more 'fans' at the war's end than ever before in the history of the industry, Cowdin said.

Commenting, informally, on his recent trip to Europe, Cowdin said that conditions now are about as could be expected during wartime.

The stockholders reelected all directors, as follows: Nate J. Blumberg, Paul G. Brown, Daniel C. Collins, Cowdin, Preston Davie, William J. German, John J. O'Connor, Ottavio Prochet, Charles D. Prutzman, J. Arthur Rank, Budd Rogers, Daniel M. Sheaffer, W. H. Taylor, Jr. and Cliff Work.

Wonderful what these playwrights think up. Now they've given Venus arms and brought her to life. We don't claim to have a magic touch, but exhibitors everywhere tell us it's heavenly the way our engineers inject new life into ailing projection room equipment. Let Altec show you the way to trouble-free performances.
You'll say signing one of our contracts was a touch of genius.

ALTEC SERVICE CORPORATION
250 West 57th Street
New York 19, N. Y.

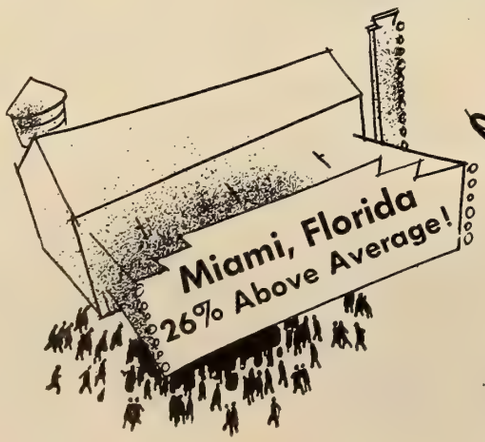
THE SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

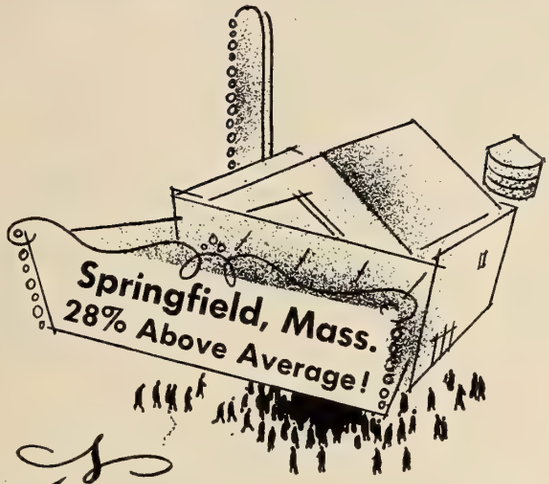
WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Feb. 17	TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT (Color) Rita Hayworth Janet Blair Lee Bowman M—92 mins. (Rev. 1/25/45)	(Tenth Block) MAIN STREET AFTER DARK Edward Arnold Selena Royle D—56 mins. (514) (Rev. 11/28/44)	GUN SMOKE Johnny Mack Brown O—57 mins. (455) (Rev. 1/19/45)	(Third Block) HERE COME THE WAVES Bing Crosby Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts M—97 mins. (4411) (Rev. 12/18/44)	SPELL OF AMY NUGENT (English) Derek Farr D—63 mins. (Rev. 2/15/45)	GREAT STAGECOACH ROBBERY Wild Bill Elliot Bobby Blake O—56 mins. (3317) (Rev. 2/21/45)	(Special) THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE (Goldwyn) (Color) Bob Hope Virginia Mayo C—94 mins. (551) (Rev. 10/11/44)	(Feb. Release) (Special Release) A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN Dorothy McGuire Joan Blondell D—128 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/24/45)		THE HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN Boris Karloff John Carradine D—71 mins. (9013) (Rev. 12/22/44)	
Feb. 24	LEAVE IT TO BLONDIE Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C	MUSIC FOR MILLIONS Margaret O'Brien Jose Iturbi M—117 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/13/44)	DILLINGER Elisha Cook Jr. Lawrence Tierney D—70 mins. (402) (Rev. 3/13/45)	DANGEROUS PASSAGE Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4412) (Rev. 12/21/44)	FOG ISLAND Lionel Atwill George Zucco D—72 mins. (Rev. 2/15/45)	SONG FOR MISS JULIE Shirley Ross Cheryl Walker M—69 mins. (411) (Rev. 2/20/45)	(Special Release) BELLE OF THE YUKON (International) (Color) Randolph Scott Gypsy Rose Lee Dinah Shore C—84 mins. (583) (Rev. 11/29/44)	HANGOVER SQUARE Laird Cregar Linda Darnell D—77 mins. (516) (Rev. 1/17/45)		THE MUMMY'S CURSE Lon Chaney D—60 mins. (9036) (Rev. 12/22/44)	OBJECTIVE, BURMA Errol Flynn D—144 mins. (411) (Rev. 1/26/45)
Mar. 3	A SONG TO REMEMBER (Color) Paul Muni Merle Oberon Cornel Wilde D—113 mins. (Rev. 1/18/45)	BLONDE FEVER Philip Dorn Mary Astor C—69 mins. (516) (Rev. 11/28/44)		FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS (Color) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—158 mins. (4413) (Rev. 7/15/43)	THE MAN WHO WALKED ALONE Dave O'Brien Kay Aldridge O—74 mins. (Rev. 2/2/45)	SHERIFF OF CIMARRON Sunset Carson Linda Stirling O—55 mins. (454) (Rev. 2/7/45)				FRISCO SAL Susanna Foster Turhan Bey M—94 mins. (9012) (Rev. 2/16/45)	
Mar. 10	THE CRIME DOCTOR'S COURAGE Warner Baxter Hillary Brooke D—70 mins. (Rev. 3/8/45)	THIS MAN'S NAVY Wallace Beery James Gleason D—100 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/4/45)		PRACTICALLY YOURS Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray C—90 mins. (4414) (Rev. 12/15/44)			(Special Release) THE THREE CABALLEROS (Disney) (Color) M—71 mins. (591) (Rev. 12/12/44)	THUNDERHEAD SON OF FLICKA Roddy McDowall Preston Foster O—78 mins. (518) (Rev. 2/1/45)		SUDAN (Color) Maria Montez Jon Hall Turhan Bey D—76 mins. (9006) (Rev. 3/1/45)	ROUGHLY SPEAKING Rosalind Russell Jack Carson D—117 mins. (412) (Rev. 1/26/45)
Mar. 17	A GUY, A GAL AND A PAL Ross Hunter Lynn Merrick Ted Donaldson D	BETWEEN TWO WOMEN Van Johnson Lionel Barrymore D—81 mins. (518) (Rev. 12/21/44)	GI HONEY-MOON Gale Storm Peter Cookson D—70 mins. (406) (Rev. 3/1/45)	DOUBLE EXPOSURE Chester Morris Nancy Kelly D—63 mins. (4415) (Rev. 12/21/44)		UTAH Roy Rogers George (Gabby) Hayes Dale Evans M—78 mins. (441) (Rev. 3/12/45)	(Third Block) WHAT A BLONDE Leon Errol Elaine Riley C—71 mins. (511) (Rev. 1/29/45)	CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE Lloyd Nolan Michael O'Shea D—67 mins. (519) (Rev. 2/15/45)			
Mar. 24	ROUGH RIDIN' JUSTICE Chas. Starrett Betty Jane Graham	NOTHING BUT TROUBLE Laurel and Hardy C—69 mins. (519) (Rev. 12/5/44)	DOCKS OF NEW YORK East Side Kids C—62 mins. (410) (Rev. 2/21/45)			THE GREAT FLAMARION Eric von Stroheim Mary Beth Hughes D—78 mins. (412) (Rev. 1/23/45)	THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE Dorothy McGuire Robert Young Herbert Marshall D—92 mins. (515) (Rev. 2/14/45)		(To be released during the period covered by this chart, but definite dates not set)	THE HOUSE OF FEAR Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce D—69 mins. (9025)	HOTEL BERLIN Faye Emerson Helmut Dantine Raymond Massey D—98 mins. (413) (Rev. 3/2/45)
Mar. 31	ROUGH, TOUGH AND READY Victor McLaglen Chester Morris D—66 mins.			(Fourth Block) BRING ON THE GIRLS (Color) Veronica Lake Sonny Tufts Eddie Bracken M—92 mins. (4416) (Rev. 2/19/45)	STRANGE ILLUSION Jimmy Lydon Warren William D—87 mins. (Rev. 2/21/45)		HAVING WONDERFUL CRIME George Murphy Pat O'Brien Carole Landis C—70 mins. (514) (Rev. 2/16/45)	THE SONG OF BERNADETTE Jennifer Jones Charles Bickford D—156 mins. (520) (Rev. 12/22/43)	BREWSTER'S MILLIONS Edward Small Prod. (Rev. 3/12/45)		
April 6	ESCAPE IN THE FOG Otto Kruger Nina Foch D ROCKING IN THE ROCKIES Three Stooges Mary Beth Hughes O	KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY Lana Turner Laraine Day D—123 mins. (520) (Rev. 2/15/45)	THERE GOES KELLY Jackie Moran Wanda McKay C—61 mins. (422) (Rev. 3/8/45)	THE UNSEEN Joel McCrea Gail Russell Herbert Marshall D—81 mins. (4417) (Rev. 2/20/45)	CRIME, INC. Leo Carrillo Tom Neal D (Rev. 2/7/45) SHADOWS OF DEATH Buster Crabbe O (Rev. 1/25/44)		PAN-AMERICANA Phillip Terry Audrey Long Robert Benchley D—81 mins. (513) (Rev. 2/21/45)	A ROYAL SCANDAL Tallulah Bankhead Anne Baxter William Eythe D—94 mins. (521)	DELIGHTFULLY DANGEROUS Charles R. Rogers Prod. 93 mins. (Rev. 2/26/45)		
April 13	EVE KNEW HER APPLES Ann Miller William Wright		FASHION MODEL Robert Lowery Marjorie Weaver C—61 mins. (423)	SALTY O'ROURKE Alan Ladd Gail Russell D—100 mins. (4418) (Rev. 2/23/45)	HOLLYWOOD AND VINE James Ellison Wanda McKay C—58 mins. (Rev. 3/8/45)		BETRAYAL FROM THE EAST Lee Tracy Nancy Kelly D—82 mins. (512) (Rev. 2/19/45)	MOLLY AND ME Gracie Fields Monty Woolley C—76 mins. (522) (Rev. 3/8/45)	IT'S IN THE BAG Jack Skirball Prod. 87 mins. (Rev. 2/9/45)	I'LL REMEMBER APRIL Gloria Jean Kirby Grant M—64 mins.	GOD IS MY CO-PILOT Dennis Morgan Andrea King D—89 mins. (414) (Rev. 2/21/45)
April 20	THE POWER OF THE WHISTLER Richard Dix Janis Carter D RETURN OF THE DURANGO KID Charles Starrett Tex Harding O		CRAZY KNIGHTS Billy Gilbert Maxie Rosenbloom C—63 mins. (421) (Rev. 1/15/45)	HIGH POWERED Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4419) (Rev. 2/21/45)	THE PHANTOM OF 42nd STREET Dave O'Brien Kay Aldrich D		(Special Release) THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW Edward Robinson Joan Bennett D—99 mins. (582) (Rev. 10/10/44)		HOLD AUTUMN IN YOUR HAND Loew-Hakim Prod. THE GREAT JOHN L Bing Crosby Prod. 96 mins.	SONG OF THE SARONG William Gargan Nancy Kelly C	
April 27	COUNTER-ATTACK Paul Muni Marguerite Chapman D		CISCO KID RETURNS Duncan Renaldo O—64 mins. (429)				(Special Release) IT'S A PLEASURE International (Color) Sonja Henie Michael O'Shea 90 mins. (584) (Rev. 2/27/45)		2000 WOMEN G. C. F. Prod. BEDSIDE MANNER Andrew Stone Prod. COLONEL BLIMP G. C. F. (Color) 148 mins. (Rev. 6/9/43)	SALOME—WHERE SHE DANCED Yvonne de Carlo David Bruce M	

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Drama. (M) Musical. (C) Comedy. (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses. (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily Review Date.

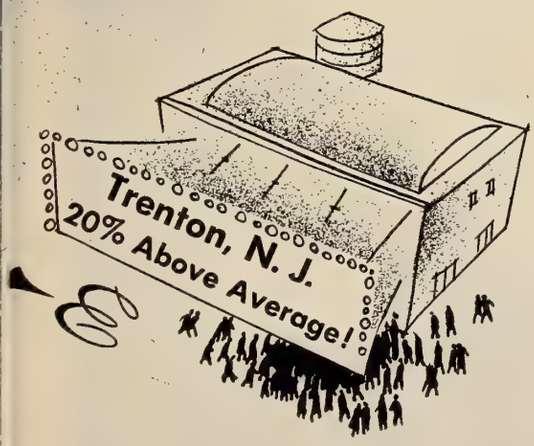
San Francisco, Cal.
15% Above Average!


Miami, Florida
26% Above Average!

One Word!
The OLDEST INSULT—
from the lips of a 12-year-old brat threatened to wreck their romance . . . destroy their love!
FREDRIC MARCH BETTY FIELD
and the Sensational SKIPPY HOMEIER
in Lester Cowan's exciting hit
TOMORROW·THE WORLD!
with
AGNES MOOREHEAD
JOAN CARROLL • EDIT ANGOLD
Directed by LESLIE FENTON • Released thru UNITED ARTISTS
By the authors of the stage play, James Gow & Arnaud D'Usseau
Screen play by Ring Lardner, Jr. and Leopold Atlas
"The Picture of the Month" —Redbook Magazine
By the same producer who will bring you Ernie Pyle's "STORY OF G I. JOE"



"TOMORROW THE WORLD"... acclaimed by critics and public as the hit picture of 1945... backed by a pre-selling campaign of ads like this... is now doing outstanding business in its initial engagements all over the country!



praise

"The Hit Picture of 1945!" . . . Drew Pearson BLUE NETWORK

"A Must See Picture!" . . . . . Jimmy Fidler

"Exciting — First Rate!" . . . . . Liberty Magazine

"Wondrously Warm — Tremendously Gripping!"
. . . McCall's Magazine

Top grosses thru U. A.!

British to Use Films To 'Sell' Pacific War

A film program is being prepared by the British Ministry of Information to condition Britons to their participation in the Pacific War against Japan, and will include the production of 40 documentaries about the Pacific campaign, it is learned here.

Realization that there might be a let-down after Germany's final defeat on the part of the British people, with a consequent disastrous drop in morale and war production, has prompted this program designed to sustain their 'interest' in the Japanese phase of the war. Prime Minister Churchill has pledged that Great Britain will, after Germany's overthrow, throw the full weight of her armed forces, including her fleet, into the Pacific fight.

Burma Campaign

Productions concerning the various Pacific campaigns will deal, it is understood, with the British participation in the Burma campaign and the various American naval and military drives against the Japs, footage of which will be made available to the BMOI for incorporation in some of the documentaries being produced in England.

BMOI, which obtains its raw stock for distribution in this country from the OWI, has had no difficulty in the first quarter in this respect. In the second quarter it expects to distribute "Atlantic Adventure" (formerly "Western Approaches") and a short, distributed by Columbia, on the British floating harbor used in the 'D-Day' assault against the Nazis in France.

Wagner Sees 'No Need' for OPA Amusements Control

(*Continued from page* 1)

also remarked that he saw "No reason to justify" the proposal. Senator McFarland of Arizona, a member of the committee, stated "It would just mean that much more red tape. I want to hear evidence that it is very necessary before I vote to extend price control to such 'luxury' items as amusements. I am opposed to any more regulation than is absolutely necessary."

Senator Millikin of Colorado, another committee member stated, "As Sam Goldwyn once said: 'Include me out.'" Senator Capper, another member of the banking group said, "I wouldn't like to see it."

Wagner pointed out that on March 1 Bowles gave the committee a statement in which he said specifically that the original reasons for exempting film tickets from price control "remain persuasive." Bowles told a press conference here yesterday that the reason film ticket prices have remained free from control so far, is that they are not covered by the statutory definition of a commodity.

Bowles had indicated earlier that the new O.P.A. authority being sought should cover control over film rentals, which he said are up 25 to 30 per cent, as well as admissions. However, he said that a roll back of admission prices and rentals to a basic period, such as May, 1942, "is not our initial objective." Asserting that "We have to be sure they don't go any higher," Bowles said that final action would depend upon a full report on both admission prices and rentals.

He contended that while admission prices were up about 38 per cent, only one-third of the increase could be attributed to Federal admission taxes.

There were indications that Bowles' suggestion was designed to test out sentiment on the question of bringing various uncontrolled services under the Act, rather than any developed program to that end. This was seen in admissions that no machinery for application of control had been blueprinted in advance and no consideration had been given to various angles of the problem that would arise in attempting to regulate rentals, which would involve percentage deals as well as flat-price contracts.

OPA officials did not appear unduly disturbed today over the action of the Senate committee, and there was no indication that Bowles would take advantage of his invitation to testify as a means of launching an all-out drive to force legislation through Congress. However, he is expected to make a strong defense of his suggestion if he appears before the committee next week.

1,500 Strike in France

More than 1,500 French theatre employes have struck in quest of a 40 per cent wage increase, according to press dispatches from Paris.

Kupfer to Schoenstadt

CHICAGO, March 14.—Col. Louis R. Kupfer, USA. retired, has joined the Schoenstadt Circuit as director of advertising and publicity.

Canada Also Faces IATSE Strike Call

(*Continued from page* 1)

move would be taken pending the receipt of further word on developments. President J. J. Fitzgibbons of Famous Players is in Hollywood but vice-president R. W. Bolstad is watching the situation here. There was no comment from either Famous Players or Odeon offices on the strike prospect.

Meanwhile circuits and film exchanges were checking on the availability of English and Russian pictures which would be rushed into theatres for program replacements in case of a walkout across Canada and it is expected that emergency arrangements would be made for bicycling such prints between theatres in some situations. It is also expected that some theatres in Quebec and Eastern Ontario would turn to French films, of which quite a number are still available. Canadian and British official shorts would fill out programs, which possibly would be reduced to single bills.

Calling of strikes in Canada during wartime is illegal under the War Measure Act but numerous walkouts have occurred without resultant prosecutions because it is difficult to determine guilt when workers quit without formality of a strike call.

Two New Mutual V-Ps

Robert A. Schmid and Ade Hult have been appointed vice-presidents of Mutual Broadcasting, Schmid to be in charge of advertising, promotion and research, and Hult to head Mid-Western operations.

Dennis O'Keefe and Constance Moore, romantic stars of Republic's radiant rhythm hit, "Earl Carroll Vanities," go through their paces in a rehearsal of one of the many spectacular production numbers.

ADVT.

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 15-21

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 15-21

VOL. 57. NO. 52 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1945 | TEN CENTS

Ten Films Are Over Average In 18 Cities

'Tree Grows in Brooklyn' Leads for Second Time

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

"A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" held the lead for a second consecutive week in MOTION PICTURE DAILY's reports of estimated box office receipts from 18 key cities, excluding New York City, for the week ended March 15. It drew outstanding business in initial weeks in San Francisco, Baltimore and Indianapolis, and continued strong in second weeks in three Los Angeles theatres and in Pittsburgh and Cincinnati. Weather conditions throughout the country were generally good, and reports indicate that the midnight curfew had only a mild effect upon receipts.

"Here Come the Co-Eds," "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and "Thunder-

(*Continued on page* 6)

Thousands Listen to Academy Awards

HOLLYWOOD, March 15.—Unaffected by the strike which upset a studio routine through the fourth day, the 17th annual Academy Awards ceremonies here, tonight, outstripped previous events in glitter and glamor, with the interest at an all-time high due to the intensely waged promotional campaigns in behalf of the nominated contestants for the awards. The capacity-packed Chinese Theatre was the focal point of industry and

(*Continued on page* 6)

N. C. Allied Against Divorcement Bill

MINNEAPOLIS, March 15.—Friendly toward the Minnesota Amusement Co., the Twin City group of North Central Allied, decided today not to support the theatre divorcement bill now before the State legislature. It was announced, however, that some members individually "might" get behind this and an anti-ASCAP measure.

Allied had no hand in the bills' introduction and the matter of pushing

(*Continued on page* 10)

Academy Winners

HOLLYWOOD, March 15.—The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences tonight announced the following winners of its annual awards:

Best motion picture of the year — "Going My Way," Paramount.

Best performance by an actor — Bing Crosby in "Going My Way," Paramount.

Best performance by an actress — Ingrid Bergman in "Gaslight," Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Best performance by an actor in a supporting role — Barry Fitzgerald in "Going My Way," Paramount.

Best performance by an actress in a supporting role — Ethel Barrymore in "None But The Lonely Heart," RKO Radio.

Best achievement in directing — "Going My Way," Paramount; Leo McCarey.

Best written screenplay — "Going My Way," Paramount. Screenplay by Frank Butler and Frank Cavett.

Best original screenplay — "Wilson," 20th Century-Fox. Screenplay by Lamar Trotti.

Best original motion picture story — "Going My Way," Paramount. Original story by Leo McCarey.

Best achievements in art direction — Black-and-white: "Gaslight," M-G-M. Cedric Gibbons and William Ferrari. Color: "Wilson," 20th-Fox. Wiard Ihnen.

Certificates of merit to interior decorators of productions receiving awards for art direction — Black-and-white: "Gaslight," M-G-M. Edwin B. Willis and Paul Huldschinsky. Color: "Wilson," 20th-Fox. Thomas Little.

Best achievements in cinematography — Black-and-white: "Laura," 20th-Fox. Joseph LaShelle. Color: "Wilson," 20th-Fox. Leon Shamroy.

Best achievement in sound recording — "Wilson," 20th-Fox. E. H. Hansen.

Best achievement in film editing — "Wilson," 20th-Fox. Barbara McLean.

Best achievement in special effects — "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," M-G-M. A. Arnold Gillespie, Donald Jahraus, and Warren Newcombe, photographic effects. Douglas Shearer, sound effects.

Best short subjects: One-reel — "Who's Who in Animal Land," Paramount; Jerry Fairbanks, producer. Two-reel — "I Won't Play," W.B.; Gordon Hollingshead, producer. Cartoon — "Mouse Trouble," M-G-M; Frederick C. Quimby, producer.

Best scoring of a musical picture — "Cover Girl," Columbia. By Morris Stoloff and Carmen Dragon.

Best music score of a dramatic or comedy picture — "Since You Went Away," Selznick International, U.A. By Max Steiner.

Best original song — "Swinging On A Star" from "Going My Way," Paramount. Music by James Van Heusen; lyrics by Johnny Burke.

Distinctive achievement in documentary production: Features—"The Fighting Lady," 20th-Fox and U. S. Navy. Short Subjects — "With the Marines at Tarawa," U. S. Marine Corps.

Special Awards —

Irving Thalberg award to Darryl F. Zanuck for outstanding production during 1944.

Best child actress of the year — Margaret O'Brien.

A life membership in the Academy was presented to Bob Hope.

Studios Still Going Despite CSU Strike

Plan Roosevelt Appeal in Event of Full Stoppage

HOLLYWOOD, March 15.—The producers maintained official silence today, as the Conference of Studio Unions' strike wore on, with IATSE's president Richard F. Walsh and CSU's president Herbert Sorrell hurling embattled utterances from headquarters set up in the Roosevelt Hotel and Carpenters Hall, respectively. Speaking unofficially, however, a producer executive told MOTION PICTURE DAILY, "All our studios are operating—not by any means normally, but still making pictures. We're in better shape than we were Monday, partly because we've got the laboratory workers back, and we're

(*Continued on page* 10)

To Air Raw Stock Problems Today

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Result of the War Production Board's survey of the number of completed motion pictures available, undertaken after last month's discussion of the raw stock situation with film company representatives, will be made known tomorrow to the Industry Advisory Committee, when it meets to discuss second-quarter allocations.

Stanley B. Adams, director of the

(*Continued on page* 6)

Universal Board Reelects Officers

All officers of Universal Pictures Corp., headed by J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board, and Nate J. Blumberg, president, were reelected yesterday at the annual organization meeting of the board of directors.

Other officers are: Charles D.

(*Continued on page* 10)

Reviewed Today

Review of "A Guy, a Gal and a Pal" appears on page 6.

Personal Mention

JACK COHN, Columbia executive vice-president, returned to New York yesterday from the Coast by way of Phoenix.

•

ARTHUR C. BROMBERG, president, Atlanta; SAM HINSON, Charlotte branch manager; and HAROLD F. COHEN, special sales representative, all of Monogram Southern Exchanges, are visiting New York.

•

PHIL REISMAN, RKO Radio vice-president in charge of foreign sales, first U. S. film company sales executive to arrive in Paris, has returned to London from there.

•

ROBERT COHN, son of JACK COHN, Columbia executive vice-president, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and promoted from 1st lieutenant to captain.

•

PHIL WILLIAMS, March of Time's advertising director, will leave New York for over the weekend on a Midwest trip.

•

GUS EYSSELL, Radio City Music Hall managing director, is due back from the Coast at the end of the month.

•

AL SINDLINGER, Audience Research Eastern representative, will arrive in New York from the Coast Monday.

•

DAVE A. EPSTEIN, Coast publicist, will arrive in New York from Hollywood Monday.

•

JOCK LAWRENCE, in charge of J. Arthur Rank's press relations in the U. S., has arrived from London.

•

AL WILKIE, Paramount publicity manager, will leave for the Coast today.

Services Sunday for Mrs. Paul Lazarus, Sr.

Funeral services for the late Hattie W. Lazarus, wife of Paul N. Lazarus, Sr., manager of United Artists' contract department, will be held Sunday at 11 A.M. from Riverside Memorial Chapel here.

Mrs. Lazarus, who was 56, died yesterday after an extended illness. She is survived also by two sons, Capt. Theodore and Sgt. Paul N. Lazarus, Jr.

Alexander Granach Dies

Alexander Granach, 67, film and legitimate stage actor, died in New York at the Park East Hospital yesterday. He had been appearing in "A Bell for Adano." Born in Poland, Granach was a graduate of Max Reinhardt's dramatic school in Germany and made a number of films abroad before coming to Hollywood, where he was first seen in "Ninotchka" in 1939. Some of his later films were "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "The Hitler Gang" and "Three Russian Girls."

Trends Are Out for MGM, Says Rodgers

CHICAGO, March 15.—M-G-M will continue to be guided by story material and its commercial appeal, in the making of future product, regardless of trends, William F. Rodgers, vice-president and general sales manager, here this week on his way from Hollywood to Washington, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY. War pictures will be made if they are sufficiently interesting, he said, pointing to "They Were Expendable," an 'A' budget film now in shooting.

Commenting on lengthy pictures, Rodgers said that it will remain M-G-M's policy to tell the full story, avoiding padding but at the same time the company will not attempt to save film at the expense of entertainment value.

He disclosed that the printing of "Ziegfeld Follies" is being held up temporarily, awaiting a Technicolor printing date. It should be ready for release by May, he said.

William F. Rodgers is scheduled to attend the WPB industry raw stock advisory committee meeting at Washington, today, on discussions pertaining to second-quarter raw stock allocations.

Griffith Suit to Be Tried in 'Takes'

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 15.—Through an informal agreement reached by counsel for the Government and Griffith Amusement Co. with Federal Judge Edgar S. Vaught of U. S. District court here, trial of the Griffith anti-trust suit will be conducted at intermittent periods of several weeks each.

The first stanza has been scheduled for May 7 to 26. Government attorneys have indicated they expect to complete presentation of their case during that period. Henry Griffing, counsel for Griffith, said he and his associates do not expect to present rebuttal witnesses or other testimony or evidence until the court sets the second session of the trial.

The Government has removed its allegations of conspiracy involving producing-distributing companies and the latter have been dismissed from the suit. Remaining defendants, in addition to Griffith Amusement, include: Consolidated Theatres of Oklahoma City, Wes-Tex Theatres and R. E. Griffith Theatres, both of Dallas.

Briefs Due April 10 In Jackson Park Suit

CHICAGO, March 15.—Defense counsel in the Jackson Park theatre antitrust case, now in the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, here, has been given until April 10 to file briefs. Oral arguments are expected to start by mid-May.

The case, heard last year in Federal Court, resulted in an award of $360,000 for the plaintiff against distributors and Balaban and Katz.

Army to Distribute To War Prisoners

The Army, through an agreement worked out with the Provost Marshall General's office and the War Activities Committee of the industry, will take over the distribution and programming of entertainment pictures for Nazi and other prisoner-of-war camps in the United States. Thus, for the first time, all distributors will be engaged in the commercial distribution of their films in 16 mm versions.

The Army move was taken because under the autonomous prisoner officers' administration of amusement affairs in the camps, there has been censorship, especially Nazi censorship, of pictures presented, MOTION PICTURE HERALD will say today. It is estimated that there are about 400 prison camps in the U. S., holding at least 300,000 Germans and several additional thousands of Italians. Some estimates have calculated the total of prisoners here at 1,000,000.

One-Third to Distributors

It is said that the distributors are to get one-third of the gross taken in at the prison camp box offices. War prisoners pay a standard admission of 15 cents. Raw stock will be taken, by the Army from its own quota, with German sub-titles to be provided, and in a few cases, German-dubbed films will be made available.

Under the new system of supplying entertainment films to German prisoners, both Gutlohn, Inc., and Films, Inc., will continue to supply 16 mm films from RKO, Universal, Paramount and 20th Century-Fox, but the ordering and print-making will be channelled through the Army. In addition, Columbia, United Artists, Monogram and Republic also have made their old films available for the 16 mm field, specifically in territories where no theatres exist.

Carr Sets Swedish Rank Distribution

LONDON, March 15.—Edward T. Carr, managing director of J. Arthur Rank's Eagle-Lion Films, has returned here, from Stockholm, declaring he set another foreign distribution deal for Eagle-Lion, describing the purchase of the distribution division of Lux-Film, Swedish producer-distributor, as "Rank's most significant" acquisition to date.

The acquisition has been named Eagle-Lion-Lux, and guarantees Rank distribution throughout Sweden. The contract also provides for Lux to produce five features annually, with Eagle-Lion distributing in Sweden, and, possibly, elsewhere.

Brandt at Dedication

Harry Brandt, president of Independent Theatre Owners Association of New York and a member of Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith, will speak at the dedication Sunday of 17 additional recreational rooms for the use of wounded service men at U. S. Naval Hospital, St. Albans, New York, furnished by lodges and auxiliaries of the Metropolitan Council of B'nai B'rith.

Zigmond 7th Aide to Hertz

John Hertz, Jr., chairman of publicity and advertising for the Seventh War Loan of the Industry, yesterday reported the appointment of Jerry Zigmond as coordinator of advertising, publicity and exploitation for the drive, set for May 14-June 30.

At the request of the national committee, Paramount has granted Zigmond a leave of absence as managing director of the Newman Theatre in Kansas City to permit him to devote all of his time to the Seventh War Loan.

Zigmond has arrived in New York to take up his duties. He has been public relations chairman of the Kansas City and Western Missouri area of the War Activities Committee since its inception.

Meanwhile, Tom W. Baily, coordinator of the War Activities Committee, Hollywood division, has accepted the invitation of Samuel Pinanski, chairman of the industry's Seventh War Loan Committee, to again serve as industry consultant to the Treasury Department. Baily arrived in New York from the Coast yesterday, and will remain here for a week for committee conferences before joining the staff of Ted R. Gamble, national War Finance director, in Washington.

Baily, loaned to the WAC by the California Theatre Council, of which he is executive director, held a similar position during the Sixth War Loan Drive.

11 Territories Set 100% for Red Cross

Eleven territories, representing 2,889 theatres, have pledged 100 per cent support for the industry Red Cross War Fund Week, Leon J. Bamberger, national campaign director, announced here yesterday. The drive officially opened yesterday in the nation's theatres.

In addition, 22 additional areas are more than 90 per cent pledged, six of which expected to hit the 100 per cent mark, including New York, Maryland, Chicago, Philadelphia, Memphis and New Orleans.

In Puerto Rico, 25 theatres are charging extra admissions during the drive, with the differential being donated to the Red Cross, Robert O. Schoham, San Juan, exchange area chairman reports.

Lou Greenspan Resigns

HOLLYWOOD, March 15.—Lou Greenspan, in charge of public relations and studio contracts for the Motion Picture Society for the Americas for the past two years, has resigned, as of April 1. Announcement of his new affiliation will follow on the effective date of his resignation.

Technicolor Dividend

Technicolor yesterday declared a dividend of 25 cents on its common stock, payable April 10 to stockholders of record March 26. In 1944 payments amounted to 50 cents, consisting of 25-cent payments in July and December.

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NEW YORK THEATRES

2ND WEEK
Thrills, Songs and Romance Come Out of the West!
"UTAH!"
starring ROY ROGERS
featuring
GEORGE "GABBY" HAYES
DALE EVANS
BOB NOLAN and the SONS OF THE PIONEERS
A REPUBLIC PICTURE
1st N. Y. Showing
REPUBLIC
Broadway, bet. 51st & 52nd Streets

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. & 6th Ave.
RITA HAYWORTH
"TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT"
JANET BLAIR ★ LEE BOWMAN
A Columbia Picture in TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
'MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS'
Judy GARLAND
Margaret O'BRIEN
IN PERSON
VINCENT LOPEZ and ORCH.

Paramount presents
Veronica LAKE Sonny TUFTS
Eddie Bracken Marjorie Reynolds
"BRING on the GIRLS"
In Person
The Ink Spots
Ella Fitzgerald
Buck & Bubbles
Cootie Williams and his Orchestra
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Dick Powell
Claire Trevor - Anne Shirley
"Murder, My Sweet"
AN RKO RADIO PICTURE

SAMUEL GOLDWYN Presents
BOB HOPE
'THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE'
in Technicolor
Continuous Doors open 8:30 A.M.
ASTOR Broadway & 45th Street
Popular Prices

WALT DISNEY'S
'The THREE CABALLEROS'
in TECHNICOLOR
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
NOW - - - Brandt's GLOBE

BETTY SMITH'S
A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN
20th CENTURY-FOX PICTURE
ROXY ON STAGE! A GAY, SPRINGTIME REVUE
7th Ave. & 50th St.

MARY O'HARA'S
"THUNDERHEAD"
in Technicolor
A 20th Century Fox Picture
Doors open 8:30 A.M.
VICTORIA Broadway & 46th St.

Advanced Television Set Demonstrated by RCA

RCA-Victor, with the cooperation of NBC, yesterday demonstrated an advanced model television receiver, reproducing pictures 16-by-21 1/3 inches, by indirect projection on a translucent screen and claimed by the company to be brighter, clearer and five times larger than pictures obtainable on prewar models. Present at the demonstration, given at Radio City, here, were film and radio trade-press representatives, RCA and NBC officials, and others.

Jolliffe Explains Details

Dr. C. B. Jolliffe, vice-president in charge of RCA Laboratories, explained technical details of the new receiver, which projects the image received on the end of a five-inch receiving (cathode ray or kinescope) tube, down on a spherical mirror, which, in turn, reflects the image upward through a correcting lens onto a flat inclined mirror and then onto the translucent screen of surface-treated plastic. The corrective lens, with which RCA has been experimenting for years, is also plastic. Frank M. Folsom, vice-president in charge of RCA-Victor, said the set will cost approximately $395 in the post-war and is not a final model but merely an operating model.

Newsreels and 'live' talent were used in the demonstration, which were telecast to the viewing studio by direct line from NBC's television studio in the same building. Dr. Jolliffe pointed out, however, that the same type of reception is obtainable under outside transmission conditions, declaring that the telecasts are picked up with equal clarity at RCA's laboratories in Princeton, N. J., about 45 miles away.

Some of the principles involved in the new receiver, it was pointed out, were used in RCA's demonstration of large-screen theatre television at the New Yorker Theatre in New York in 1941. Most of the work on the new receiver was done prior to 1941, Dr. Jolliffe explained.

Lt. Col. Frank Cahill, Warner Bros. Theatre director of projection and sound, who was present at the demonstration, hailed the picture quality as the best he has seen thus far in television and believes that the set will give the public its money's worth.

Comparing the picture definition achieved on the set with films shown in theatres, Col. Cahill believes that the television image of the set is comparatively equal only in close-ups to the type of image achieved on theatre screens. Contrast between black and white is much inferior to pictures achieved in theatres on all other types of shots, Col. Cahill said. Improvement is still needed to achieve a perfectly flat picture on the television screen, since the spherical effect of the kinescope tube is evident in all but close-up shots, despite the correcting lens, he believes.

Discuss Film Virtues

Although Dr. Jolliffe declared that he thought that "live" shows provided better picture quality than film programs in television, Col. Cahill said that he believes that films provide a much sharper picture quality on the television screen and pointed out that films provide more animation to the images.

Legion Classifies 15 More Pictures

The Legion of Decency has reviewed 15 addition films. In Class A-1 are: "Enemy of the Law," PRC; "Fashion Model," Monogram; "Hollywood and Vine," PRC; "Keep Your Powder Dry," M-G-M; "The Navajo Trail," Monogram; "Stranger from Santa Fe," Monogram; "There Goes Kelly," Monogram, and "Utah," Republic.

In Class A-II are: "Bring on the Girls," Paramount; "The Crime Doctor's Courage," Columbia; "Crime, Inc.," PRC; "Hotel Berlin," Warners; "High Powered," Paramount; "It's a Pleasure," RKO-International, and "Sudan," Universal.

'Utah' in Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY, March 15.—Gov. Herbert B. Maw and Mayor Earl J. Glade head the list of those who will be heard over Mutual's KLO and the Intermountain network from the lobby of the Lyric, here, on Saturday, when the Republic—Roy Rogers, "Utah" has its local premiere, as part of a campaign arranged by Joseph Rosenfield and Jerry Ross of the Lyric.

'Corn' Premiere Mar. 29

Warners has set the world premiere of "The Corn is Green," for March 29 at the Hollywood Theatre on Broadway, to follow "Roughly Speaking," which will have a run of eight weeks and one day at the Hollywood.

M-G-M Starts British Talent Inter-change

Pat Kirkwood, English actress, will be the first star to go to Hollywood under a new plan for exchange of screen players between M-G-M in California and M-G-M British Studios, Ltd. She will star in "No Leave, No Love," to be produced by Joe Pasternak.

The plan for player exchange is the result of an agreement between Louis B. Mayer and Sir Alexander Korda.

Byrnes Aides, Ignored On Curfew, Protest

WASHINGTON, March 15.—The advisory board of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, besieged by letters blaming its members for the midnight curfew and the ban on horse racing, has adopted a resolution "respectfully" requesting James F. Byrnes, the director, to take the board into his confidence. It was said that Byrnes had not done so with regard to the two orders in question.

$156,000 for 'Legal Aid'

Benjamin Pepper, local attorney of Socolow and Pepper, has accepted the chairmanship of the theatrical division for the $165,000 appeal of The Legal Aid Society, according to announcement made by Irving S. Olds, chairman of the board of United States Steel Corp., who is citywide chairman.

Columbia Montague Drive Starts Today

Columbia's 1945 billing campaign will be known as 'Montague 20th Anniversary Campaign,' as a tribute to general sales manager Abe Montague, for his 20 years with the company. The campaign will start today and continue 15 weeks, through June 28.

During the drive, Columbia will release nine films: "A Song To Remember," "Tonight and Every Night," "Counter-Attack," "Over 21," "A Thousand and One Nights," "The Fighting Guardsman," "The Power of the Whistler," "Rough, Tough and Ready" and "Boston Blackie Booked on Suspicion."

Haines at Warners' Southern Meeting

MEMPHIS, March 15.—Warner branch managers for six Southeastern-Southwestern exchange districts will participate in a sales conference to be conducted by Roy Haines, Southern-Western division sales manager, on Sunday and Monday at the Hotel Peabody here.

Ralph McCoy, Southeastern, and Doak Roberts, Southwestern district managers, will head their respective delegations, to include the following managers: Ed Williamson, Memphis; Luke Conner, New Orleans; Henry G. Krumm, Atlanta; John A. Bachman, Charlotte; J. W. Loewe, Dallas; J. B. Sokley, Oklahoma City. Field representatives Herbert Pickman, Southeast and Frank Bruner, Southwest, also will attend.

Norman H. Moray, 'captain' of Warners' 1945 sales drive, will detail this year's campaign, with Bill Brumberg, head of the field exploitation staff, outlining special merchandising plans prepared under direction of Mort Blumenstock.

IATSE Union Loses In Vote Upset Plea

The New York State Labor Relations Board has dismissed the petition of IATSE projectionists Local No. B-186 seeking an investigation and certification of representatives in connection with the union's dispute with Mamyer Operating Co. of Auburn, N. Y., an affiliate of the Schine Circuit.

The IATSE local alleged that a controversy existed concerning the representation of employes of the company after it had lost a collective bargaining election of Mamyer employes.

Slesinger Has 16mm Comic Cartoon Unit

HOLLYWOOD, March 15. — Steve Slesinger, New York magazine publisher, has formed a Hollywood-New York producing company to make 16mm films of comic cartoons for home machines and television, under a special process.

Discuss Video Talent

"Talent Looks at Television," with entertainment industry representatives participating, was the subject of a meeting of the American Television Society at the Museum of Modern Art here last night.

IT'S MURDER a

Happy box-office reports from first fifteen key openings: NEW YORK · CHICAGO SAN FRANCISCO · ST. LOUIS · MILWAUKEE DES MOINES · CINCINNATI · DAYTON NEW HAVEN · ALLENTOWN · INDIANAPOLIS BUFFALO · PITTSBURGH · ALBANY and OMAHA . . . with early openings set for LOS ANGELES · PROVIDENCE · KANSAS CITY CLEVELAND · READING · HARRISBURG TRENTON and a score of other first runs!

COLLECT AT EVERY SHOW!
RED CROSS WEEK — MARCH 15-21

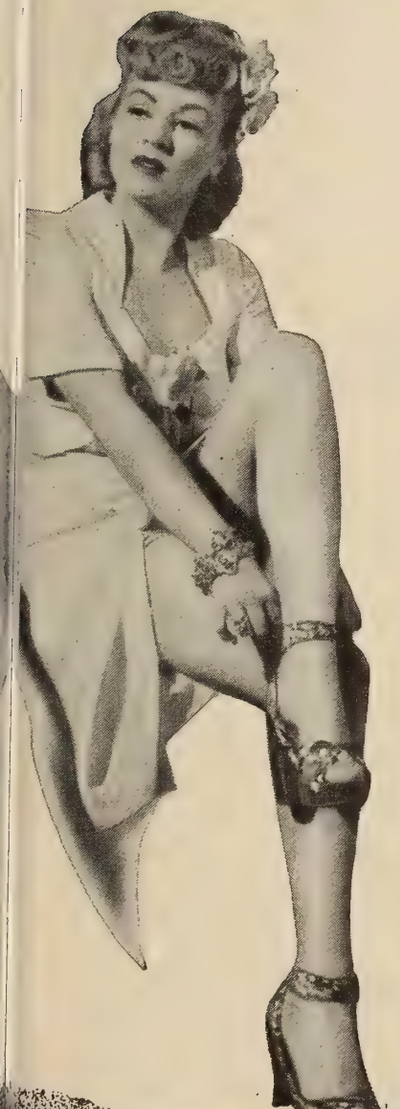
Dick POWELL · Clair

Murder

OTTO KRUGER · MIKE MAZURKI · M

Produced by Adrian Scott · Direct

IT'S SWEET!



"A superior piece of tough melodrama."
—*Bosley Crowther, N. Y. Times*

"Stacks up with the all-time great mystery films."
—*Frank Quinn, N. Y. Daily Mirror*

"Spine-tingling melodrama . . . the tougher and gorier they make these thrillers, the better, it seems."
—*Kate Cameron, N. Y. Daily News*

"Taut and fascinating . . . Top-notch thriller."
—*Howard Barnes, N. Y. Herald-Tribune*

"Belongs on the list of excellent mysteries."
—*Alton Cook, N. Y. World-Telegram*

"A wallopy thriller . . . exciting stuff."—*Irene Thirer, N. Y. Post*

"Enormously exciting . . . packed with action and taut with suspense." —*Rose Pelswick, N. Y. Journal-American*

"Vogue for hard-boiled melodrama reaches some kind of peak in 'Murder, My Sweet'." —*Eileen Creelman, N. Y. Sun*

REVOR • Anne SHIRLEY

My Sweet

(Tradeshown and reviewed as "Farewell My Lovely")

NDER • DOUGLAS WALTON • DON DOUGLAS

rd Dmytryk Screen Play by John Paxton

RKO RADIO PICTURES

Ten Films Are Over Average In 18 Cities

(Continued from page 1)

head, Son of Flicka" are showing excellent strength in the cities reported on, and "A Song to Remember," "To Have and Have Not," "Music for Millions," "I'll Be Seeing You," "Meet Me in St. Louis" and "Murder, My Sweet" are drawing heavily in extended holdover runs, bringing to 10 the number of films scoring above average in the 18 cities.

"A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" was tops in San Francisco with a big $11,500 above average; was $4,000 above in Baltimore, and $3,600 above in Indianapolis, all for initial weeks. The remainder of the heavy $30,700 above par was recorded in strong second weeks in Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and in three Los Angeles theatres.

"Here Come the Co-Eds" was strong in initial weeks in Boston; in San Francisco and in two theatres in Denver as a dual; and in Boston combined with a stage show. It drew almost $10,000 above in the two Denver theatres; $3,500 above in San Francisco and $3,000 above in Boston. "For Whom the Bell Tolls" was the leader in Toronto, where it played for the first time in Canada, having been prevented from having advanced-price runs there last year because of the frozen-admission price regulation of the Canadian Wartime Prices and Trade Board. In return, popular priced engagements, it was considerably above par in second weeks in St. Louis, Kansas City and Denver, and good in first weeks in Minneapolis as a dual, in Boston and in Buffalo.

Good 'Thunderhead' Start

"Thunderhead, Son of Flicka" showed strength in initial weeks in three theatres in Kansas City and in Boston as a dual; and was profitable in an initial week in Cincinnati and a second week in San Francisco. "A Song to Remember" in an initial week in Providence brought almost $5,000 above; was a leader in a second week Boston as a dual and was profitable in third weeks in two Los Angeles theatres and in a moveover in Boston. "To Have and Have Not" in second weeks in Toronto and Chicago and in third weeks as a dual in two theatres in Boston is another strong holdover attraction.

'Music' Opens Big

"Music for Millions" opened big in Philadelphia and in three theatres in Los Angeles, and continued to be a sturdy grosser in St. Louis in a third week, in Kansas City as a dual, and in a third week in Cleveland. "I'll Be Seeing You" was strong in initial weeks in Baltimore and Buffalo and continued to draw neatly on a moveover in San Francisco. "Meet Me in St. Louis" continues to set new records for sustained holdover power. It was outstanding in fifth weeks in two Boston theatres and in a fifth week on a moveover in Cincinnati. It was a big grosser in a third week in Chicago with a stage show and in third weeks in Omaha and Pittsburgh. It continued strong in a fourth week in Toronto and was still drawing good money in Philadelphia as a second run, to roll up $164,700 against par of $151,000.

"Murder, My Sweet," in a good third week in Chicago as a dual and a strong first week in Buffalo as a dual, as well as profitable first weeks in Omaha, Providence and Pittsburgh, and a good moveover week in Cincinnati, is showing strength.

Other pictures which turned in outstanding performances in two or more of the 18 cities reporting were: "Objective, Burma," "Here Come the Waves," "Hangover Square," "The Three Caballeros," "Belle of the Yukon" and "Tonight and Every Night." Outstanding on single city reports were: "Roughly Speaking," "Hotel Berlin" and "Mr. Emmanuel."

Review

"A Guy, a Gal and a Pal"

(*Columbia*)

Hollywood, March 15

TIMELY as the war and the transportation problem, which figure in the plot for purposes of humor, this swift little comedy takes good care of its hour on the screen. Ross Hunter and Lynn Merrick are the top names, and they turn in neat performances which are matched, as to quality, by their support.

The script, by Monte Brice, based on a story by Gerald Drayson Adams, opens with Miss Merrick trying to get to Washington to marry a gentleman of importance who loses out, at the end of many complications, to a young Marine who volunteers to assist in getting her to her destination. The fact that he is a hero and recognized as such, and the circumstance which requires that the two pretend to be married, provide the complications that provide the amusement. Production, by Wallace MacDonald, and direction, by Oscar Boetticher, Jr., are ship-shape.

Running time, 61 min. General classification. Release date March 8.

WILLIAM R. WEAVER

92 New Houses Are Built in 3 Years

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Three years of war have seen the construction of only 92 new theatres under auspices of the Office of Civilian Requirements, but their construction value totaled $8,162,459, it was disclosed today by War Production Board records. In addition, 53 fire-damaged theatres were reconstructed at a cost of $2,738,937, and reconversions, repairs and alterations authorized by the WPB amounted to $2,139,414, and included 21 reconversion projects involving increases in seating capacity.

In total, theatre construction, rebuilding and repairing under the OCR program involved $13,040,811 from Jan. 1, 1942, to Dec. 31, 1944. The WPB records show that the reseating section of the OCR, which has handled the wartime theatre construction program, has been conservative in approving new houses and has supported only projects in the most congested production centers for which a need has been definitely shown.

The 92 houses assisted by the OCR do not represent all theatres built since Pearl Harbor, since there were a number under construction at that time which were completed before the present strict building limitations were imposed.

New Company Formed

ALBANY, N. Y., March 15.—Fletcher Smith Studios, Inc., has been incorporated to conduct a motion picture business in New York. Incorporators are: Morris H. and Irving Bloomberg attorneys, and Alexander D. Diamond. all of New York.

Thousands Listen to Academy Awards

(Continued from page 1)

public attention, and thousands filled outside 'bleachers' and lined Hollywood Boulevard for blocks, listening to the ceremonies over a loud-speaker hook-up.

Traffic snarls, lights and crowd confusion approached pre-war peaks as guests, in attire somewhat stretching 'informal dress' arrived. The program was nationally broadcast.

(Winners of the Academy Awards are named in columns two and three of page one).

Dunn, RKO and RCA Get Top Research Award

HOLLYWOOD, March 15.—One plaque and 10 honorable mentions, for scientific or technical achievements, were bestowed by the Academy research council as part of tonight's ceremonies.

The plaque went to Stephen Dunn and the RKO sound department for design, and to RCA for additional development, of an electronic compressor-limiter.

Honorable Mention

The honorable mentions went to: Linwood Dunn, Cecil Love and the Acme Tool Co. for design and construction of the Acme-Dunn optical printer; Grover Laube and the 20th Century-Fox camera department for development of a continuous loop projection device; Western Electric Co., for design and construction of the 1126-A limiting amplifier for variable density sound recording; Russell Brown, Ray Hinsdale and Joseph Robbins for development and use of Paramount's floating hydraulic boat rocker; Gordon Jennings for design and construction of Paramount's nodal point tripod; RCA and the RKO sound department for design and construction of the RKO reverberation chamber; Daniel J. Bloomberg and the Republic sound department for design and development of a multi-interlock selector switch; Bernard B. Brown and John P. Livadary for design and engineering of a separate soloist and chorus recording room; Paul Zeff, S. J. Twining and George Seid for the formula and application of a simplified variable area sound negative developer, and to Paul Lerpae for design and construction of Paramount's traveling matte projection and photographing device.

Short Subject Review

"Memo from Britain"

(*20th-Fox-March of Time*")

After five years of war, the British homeland is, presumably, no longer threatened by invasion, but the battle-scarred Britons have new problems and new aspirations. That is the crux of this report on Britain at home which March of Time's editors have compiled as a companion piece to their "British Imperialism" of last August. There is a reminder, too, that British sacrifices for the war effort have been high in casualties, both service and civilian, in forfeited liberties and personal comforts. For their all-out effort, the British people are demanding and being promised a better way of life with security as the keynote. The camera presentation is personal and sympathetic, offering varied pictures of 'the plain people' of Britain learning new jobs and developing new social attitudes. The commentary, spoken in lightly-accented British, is undramatic and persuasive. Running time, 16 minutes.

To Air Raw Stock Problems Today

(Continued from page 1)

Consumers' Durable Goods division, and Lincoln V. Burrows, chief of the Photographic Section, were working late this evening on final figures on supply and demand, which they will report to the meeting.

Tomorrow's session is expected to reveal whether the WPB actually intends to go through with two plans it has been studying. One would reduce the ceiling on prints from the 285 figure set last month. The other would establish a pool, to which all the companies would contribute and from which independents would draw as they required raw stock.

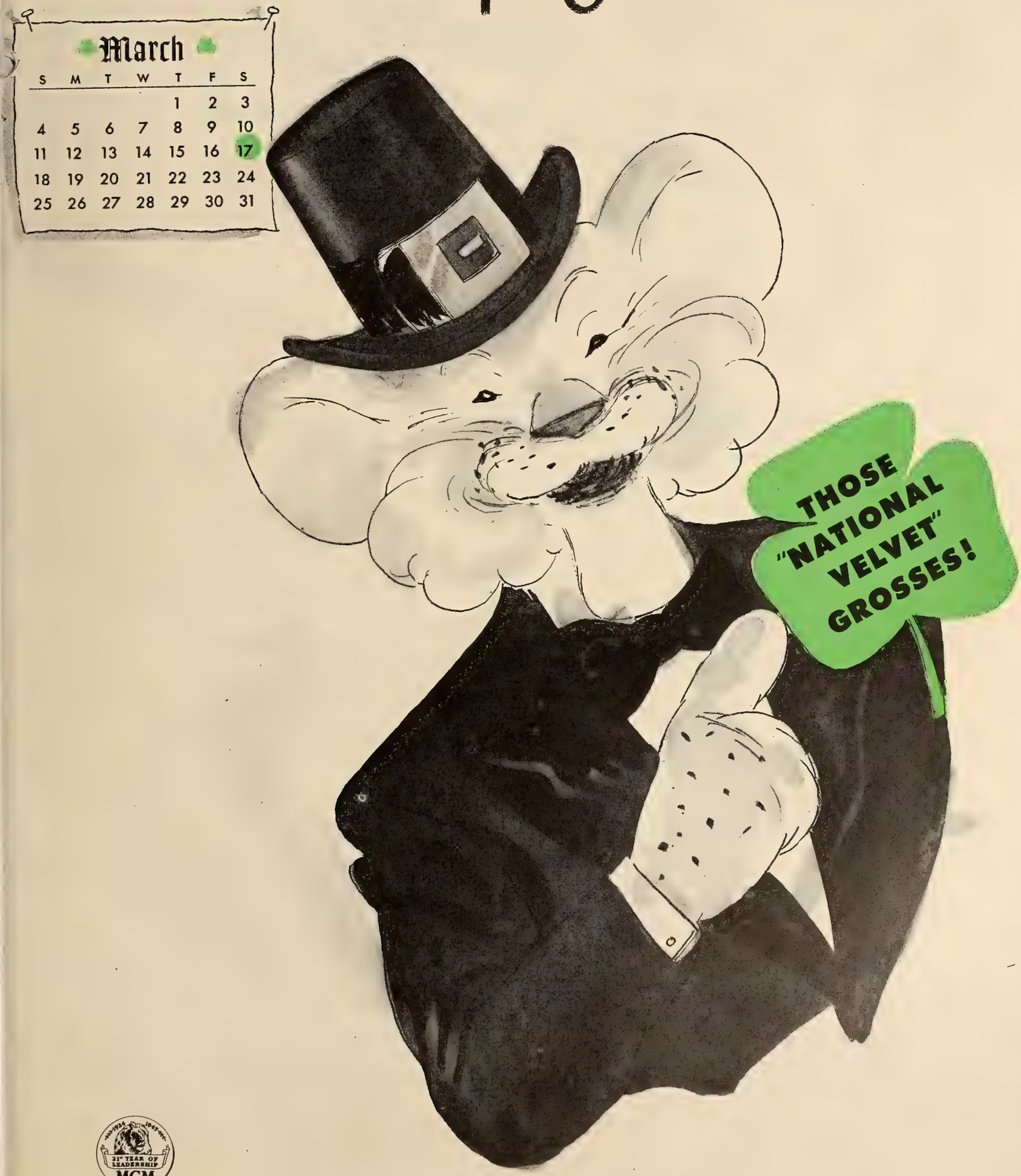
The foreign demand for raw stock also is expected to come up for discussion tomorrow. Eastman Kodak executives from France were in Washington today, reportedly discussing operation of the plant in Paris.

Expect Present Level

WPB officials today gave no hint whether the industry will be required to take a further cut in raw stock during the coming quarter, but there were indications that the situation is not too unfavorable and that operations may be continued at present levels in the expectation of some improvement in the supply picture before mid-year.

It is expected that Board officials tomorrow will submit to the committee the formula by which allocations will be made to foreign producers desiring to distribute in the United States and for the handling of applications from independents, together with a final definition of the latter. It was reported that the formula for independents' raw stock supplies will provide for the granting of raw stock to producers who were established but not active since 1941, thus taking care of Mary Pickford, Charles Chaplin and others.

The wearing of the Grin!



21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP
MGM

Red Cross Week—March 15-21
Collect At Every Show!

WORLD PREMIERE

M and P THEATRES
PARAMOUNT and FENWAY
DAY and DATE—BOSTON

"Republic pix are receiving a highly gratifying press reception these days . . . F'r instance, the Hub dailies' reviewers greeted "Earl Carroll Vanities" with huzzahs when the musical opened at Paramount's Fenway and Paramount . . . The Globe's Marjory Adam, the Record's Peggy Doyle, the Herald's Elinor Hughes, the Travelers' Helen Eager and the Post's Prunella Hall didn't stint on adjectives in their raves . . . and biz is in keeping, the grapevine affirms."

THE FILM DAILY

"Earl Carroll Vanities" is one of the best pictures ever turned out by Republic and can easily take its place among the season's most entertaining musicals. The new film, which is having its world premiere showings at the Paramount and Fenway, has an excellent cast . . . amusing story, accompanied by humorous dialogue, and a flock of catchy tunes. Miss Moore never has been photographed to better advantage. She is an exquisite princess. O'Keefe is pleasant and personable hero. Miss Arden delivers her caustic lines with her customary perfection as a night club owner and the pal of the princess. Kruger makes a handsome Earl Carroll. Diminutive Lee is a comical, lisping comedian, a newcomer who teams up with Miss Arden with funny results. Mowbray has a field day portraying a bibulous grand duke who never comes out of his cups, but who saves the day for everyone. Among the best tunes are "Endlessly," "Rock-a-bye Boogie" and "I've Been So Good For So Long." Joseph Santley has directed with good taste, and he and Republic can take a bow for a most entertaining picture."

BOSTON TRAVELER

"As a film musical "Earl Carroll Vanities" is a nice blend of music, production numbers, comedy and a romantic story. Pinky Lee and Eve Arden in comedy characterizations, Woody Herman and his gang playing new hit tunes and the dancing and singing numbers of the show in rehearsal. Constance Moore is the very capable actress-princess, with Dennis O'Keefe serving as prince charming. The remainder of the good cast boasts of such sturdy performers as Otto Kruger, Alan Mowbray and Stephanie Bachelor."

BOSTON POST

"Earl Carroll Vanities" is a gay, spectacular, entertaining comedy which ought to please Republic moguls exceedingly as it represents one of the most attractive musical film which this studio ever released. The new picture at the Paramount and Fenway Theatres . . . has zest, brisk humor catchy melodies and funny situations, to turn it into the sor of talkie that stops the talk from the audience. There ar no bored people at either theatre this week. Eve Arden an Pinky Lee . . . perfect comedy team. Constance Moore, stage star now in films, is the lovely Princess who sings mos of the chief numbers and sounds as good as she looks."

THE BOSTON DAILY GLOB

"It's Turania . . . not Graustark . . . but the princess is a fabulously beautiful and democratic, and the glorified Continental whistlestop as miraculously remote from anything mundane. Crests, accents, culture and mystery abound . . all this and glamour-girls, too. And, all of it, by courtes of the steadily expanding Republic Pictures organization for the subject and object of our "lead" is that studio' prodigally produced spectacle, "Earl Carroll Vanities," nov unreeling gaily on Paramount and Fenway screens. Constance Moore, looking as lovely as she did on a local stag some years ago in the Broadway musical, "By Jupiter," an the tall, blonde and terrific Dennis O'Keefe are its happil teamed co-stars. When they are not feuding up to a grea romance on the screen, that wonderfully funny glamazon Eve Arden; the half-pint comic from burlesque, Pinky Lee or Alan Mowbray, who blends dignity with humor to perfection as a bibulous duke, and Boston's own Parkyakarkus are providing comedy. "Earl Carroll Vanities" has sparkle bounce and plenty of chuckles, as well as the handsomest most likeable boy-meets-girl setup your stage-and-scree reporter has seen in months of musicals."

THE BOSTON DAILY RECORD

The Critics Rave!

EARL CARROLL VANITIES

starring

DENNIS O'KEEFE • CONSTANCE MOORE

featuring EVE ARDEN *with* OTTO KRUGER
ALAN MOWBRAY • STEPHANIE BACHELOR

and

PINKY LEE • PARKYAKARKUS • LEON BELASCO
BEVERLY LOYD • EDWARD GARGAN

and

WOODY HERMAN *and his* Orchestra

Directed by Joseph Santley • *Screen play by* Frank Gill, Jr
Based on Original Story by Cortland Fitzsimmons

"Under the title, "Earl Carroll Vanities" . . . Republic Pictures have turned out a lively and pleasant romantic comedy with music, easy to look at and not hard to listen to, either. The production itself is attractive . . . the performances are brisk and pleasing. There is humor . . . very good looking young ladies . . . lively music by Woody Herman and his band. Constance Moore, looking very fetching indeed, is the beautiful incognita who seems definitely at home in a Broadway musical yet is just the sort of decorative window dressing a royal family should have, and usually doesn't. Her role calls for considerable singing and dancing, which she handles something more than competently, and she is also acquiring a helpful gift of humor. Dennis O'Keefe is the rough diamond, and a very likeable one, too, making a stock role unusually agreeable; Eve Arden has one of her wise-cracking comedy parts which she tosses off excellently; Alan Mowbray portrays an amiable rounder; our old friend Parkyakarkus, has a good specialty bit; and Tom Dugan and Pinky Lee pretending to be influential bankers, offer one of the most amusing scenes in the picture. In short, "Earl Carroll Vanities" . . . is a pleasant and entertaining show."

THE BOSTON HERALD

NOW PLAYING:

F and M Theatres -
FOX — ST. LOUIS

Fox West Coast -
PARAMOUNT (De Luxe) — DENVER

Paramount Florida Theatres -
PALACE — JACKSONVILLE

M and P Paramount -
NEW HAVEN

IT'S A GREAT HIT FROM REPUBLIC

Missouri Guarantee Of Free Screen

St. Louis, March 15.—Missouri's new 'streamlined' constitution includes motion pictures and radio in its freedom-of-speech clause. The Constitution provides that: "No law shall be passed impairing the freedom of speech, no matter by what means communicated," the last phrase being included to cover films and radio, both newcomers in the field of communication since Missouri adopted its previous charter, 70 years ago.

Fitzgibbons Names Six to New Posts

VANCOUVER, March 15.—Frank M. Gow, pioneer theatre man, has been named district manager in charge of Famous Players theatres in British Columbia. The appointment is one of a series announced by J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., following a meeting of the British Columbia district.

Maynard S. Joiner, manager of the Capitol, here, is promoted to district manager of downtown Vancouver and Victoria theatres; Charles Doctor, manager of the Dominion, will take over the Capitol; David Borland of the Capitol, Prince Rupert, takes Doctor's place at the Dominion; Harry Black goes from the Capitol, Penticton, to Prince Rupert. Frank Kershaw, who has been in charge of downtown Vancouver and Victoria theatres, will go to the home office in Toronto to take over management and supervision of Central Theatre Supply Co., Famous Players subsidiary for theatre supplies and equipment, with warehouses in Toronto and in Montreal.

In Bearg's Position

Gow takes the post formerly occupied by Larry Bearg, now Western general manager, who with E. A. Zorn, general district manager for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, also attended the meeting here.

Gow's present duties as manager of suburban and up-country theatres, will be absorbed in his new post. Plans are now being made, he stated, for the construction of theatres in Chilliwack, Kelowna and Prince George. In addition, there will be considerable building activity in Vancouver when the war ends, he added.

Fitzgibbons is now on his way to Hollywood where he will make presentations on behalf of the Canadian Minister of Finance and national war finance committee to Spencer Tracy and other members of the cast who made Seventh Victory Loan films. He will also complete arrangements for an Eighth Victory Loan film, now in preparation, with Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Betty Grable, Fibber McGee and Molly, Harry James, Harpo Marx and others. It is being made by Darryl Zanuck at the request of the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee.

'Horn' Shown April 2

"The Horn Blows at Midnight," starring Jack Benny, will be tradeshown by Warners on Monday, April 2. The picture is scheduled for general release late in April.

Studios Still Operating in Spite of CSU Strike

(*Continued from page* 1)

getting some painters and carpenters, who are not members of any union, through the picket lines."

Asked whether any parties to the conflict had appealed to President Roosevelt, the executive said, "No such action has been taken yet, although that would be our recourse if production were finally brought to a stop."

Following the third joint session in as many days, a special committee representing the Screen Actors Guild, Screen Directors Guild and Screen Writers Guild was to offer a strike settlement formula tonight.

Reiterating yesterday's assertion that IATSE was determined to "get the studios rolling," Walsh said he had received assurances from 655 out of 700 projectionist locals that their members were ready to stop work if called upon to do so. "The only reason I would call them out," he added, "is if the producers recognize the Set Decorators Union. If that happens, I will call out the operators and stagehands." Emphasizing his readiness to supply substitutes for the striking workers, Walsh said, "IATSE operated the studios before the Conference of Studio Unions was organized and can do it again."

New Sorrell Demand

Sorrell issued a statement declaring: "Threats by Walsh to take over control of all unions in Hollywood, and his action ordering members of his unions to act as strike-breakers have broadened the basis of any settlement CSU will make with the producers. Originally we were willing to go back to work when the producers ceased to defy the authority of the War Labor Board and abide by the decision of its arbitrator. Now, since Walsh has seized the opportunity to attempt to succeed Willie Bioff as a would-be czar of Hollywood and is engaged in strike-breaking with the consent of the producers, we will not go back until the producers (1) abide by the arbitrator's decision and (2) sit down with us and representatives of every union supporting the strike and thresh out all jurisdictional matters which Walsh and associates are constantly provoking."

International President Ed Flore telegraphed the Culinary Workers local to return to the studios tomorrow. Commissaries were closed today.

The Central Casting Bureau, unstaffed since yesterday noon when 300 Screen Office Employees Guild members refused to cross the picket line, functioned in reverse on a limited scale today, with casting directors answering "work wanted" phone calls from extra-players, professional or volunteer, and passing their names on to the studios. Both Screen Players Union members and junior members of the Screen Actors Guild had been recruited heretofore through Central Casting. The studios were accepting all comers, union or non-union, today.

SAG Polls Members

A decision on the actors' official stand, expected tomorrow night, appeared postponed when the Screen Actors Guild, pleading inability to find an auditorium big enough to accommodate all members at a membership meeting, distributed mail ballots for sealed votes, returnable next Tuesday.

IATSE Film Technicians Local 683, which had observed the picket lines since the beginning, returned to work today after a special membership meeting following Walsh's arrival.

IATSE Local 728, whose members have been manning studio generators in the absence of members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, applied to the National Labor Relations Board for certification as the bargaining agency covering this type of work. IBEW men went into session on reprisal strategy which reportedly might include calling on other members, handling lines supplying current from outside the studios, to cut off the current.

Universal Board Reelects Officers

(*Continued from page* 1)

Prutzman, vice-president and general counsel; Cliff Work, vice-president and studio head; John J. O'Connor, vice-president; William A. Scully, vice-president in charge of distribution; Joseph H. Seidelman, vice-president in charge of foreign distribution; Samuel Machnovitch, treasurer, and Adolph Schimel and Edward Muhl, assistant secretaries.

Balto. Variety Donates

BALTIMORE, March 15.—Variety Club, Baltimore Tent, No. 19, is contributing $2,500 towards a second Boys' Club, to be opened here Friday night. Ten such projects are on the calendar of the Juvenile Protective Bureau of the Police Department. Frank H. Durkee, chief baker of the Baltimore Tent, reports that representatives of the Philadelphia Variety Club will attend Friday's ceremonies since they are contemplating to help finance a similar program in that city.

Vincent and Schenck Urge 'Dimes' Filing

Only eight states have rendered complete reports on 1945 March of Dimes collections and drive treasurer Walter Vincent and chairman Nicholas M. Schenck are urging exhibitors to lose no more time in making final accountings to state chairmen.

The eight completed reports show a total increase of nearly $150,000 over 1944 collections in the same areas. West Virginia yesterday reported $40,455, against $22,349 last year, a jump of 81 per cent. North California's $122,080 is 27 per cent above last year; Louisiana has shown the smallest increase so far, only 1 per cent, with $77,597; Arizona is highest, with a 92 per cent jump, to $20,859; Alabama reports $55,723, an increase of 9 per cent over last year; North Carolina, with $90,852 is up 67 per cent. Florida, with $111,996, is up 42 per cent; South Carolina, with $32,055, is up 47 per cent.

The national committee is also urging exhibitors to return the Greer Garson trailer to National Screen exchange for salvage.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, Mar. 15

COLUMBIA will produce Alexander Dumas' "The Regent's Daughter" under the title of "Cavalier of France." Michel Kraike is slated to produce. . . . Marjorie Reynolds, Paramount star, has been borrowed by Jules Levey for one of the top roles in his forthcoming United Artists production, "Trail Town," adapted from the novel by Ernest Haycox.

•

June Allyson and Gloria DeHaven will be teamed again in "Joy of Living," which Joseph Pasternak will produce, and Richard Thorpe will direct for M-G-M. . . . William Eythe and Lloyd Nolan have been assigned the top male leads in "Now It Can Be Told," which Louis de Rochemont will produce for 20th Century-Fox.

•

George Blair will act as associate producer and director on Republic's "Gay Blade," a story about ice-hockey. . . . Marc Platt, dancer who scored in "Tonight and Every Night," will be one of the principals in Columbia's forthcoming musical, "Tars and Spars." . . . Sheila Ryan has been selected for the top feminine lead in "Command to Embezzle" at 20th Century-Fox.

•

M-G-M has purchased "Now That April's There," unpublished novel by Daisy Neumann which deals with the experiences of two English children who return to their homeland after spending three years in the United States to escape the 'blitz.' . . . Another recent M-G-M purchase is "The Lady in the Lake," by Raymond Chandler, which has been assigned to George Haight for production.

•

Frank McHugh has been selected for the comedy lead in Columbia's "Song of Broadway." . . . Neely Edwards has been cast for a featured role in RKO Radio's "George White's Scandals of 1945."

•

Ann Gillis has been chosen for an important role in the forthcoming Warner production, "Janie Gets Married." . . . Robert Walker will portray composer Jerome Kern in "Till the Clouds Roll By," at M-G-M. . . . Mrs. Julia Wolfe, mother of the late Thomas Wolfe, is in Hollywood for conferences with producers Arthur Ripley and Rudolph Monter, who will soon start work on "Look Homeward, Angel," based on Wolfe's famous novel.

N. C. Allied Against Divorcement Bill

(*Continued from page* 1)

their passage will not be brought before the organization as a whole inasmuch as there has been no demand for such action, president Henry Greene said.

The theatre divorcement bill would require the Minnesota Amusement Co. to divest itself of theatres one year after passage. The proposed anti-ASCAP law calls for that organization or its members to furnish a verified list of licensed copyrighted works to each theatre and other establishments and to publish it in designated legal publications.

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Experience shows that movie-taught groups learn 25% to 30% faster, retain 38% more of what they are taught.

OUR first big battle of the war, the battle of production, the fight to get out the goods, is being fought and won with the help of industrial training films.

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Helping the new war worker learn faster (movies save 25% to 30% of teaching time) . . . helping him learn better (movie-taught groups retain 38% more of what they're taught) . . . industrial training films have helped us to arm ourselves in record time.

One of a series of advertisements by KODAK testifying to the achievements of the movies at war

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FORT LEE CHICAGO HOLLYWOOD

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 53 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1945 TEN CENTS

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Walsh Drops Projectionist Walkout Plan

Acts as Sorrell Defies Back-to-Work Order

By WILLIAM R. WEAVER

HOLLYWOOD, March 18.—"We're not going to call out the projectionists, nor our studio workers either," Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Friday, fifth day of the Conference of Studio Unions strike here. Earlier in the week he had threatened to do so if the producers should give way to CSU, IA's rival in the jurisdictional dispute.

Walsh's reversal of his position came upon learning that Herbert Sorrell, CSU president, had telegraphed defiance to William Green, AFL president, who had demanded that Sorrell "cease and desist from using the name of AFL in connection with the strike, which I disavow," and had called for immediate termination of the walkout in favor of reliance upon Governmental agencies to settle the dispute.

Following a special Friday afternoon meeting, Sorrell telegraphed Green: "Responsible leadership is moving to meet clearly the defined responsibilities of labor in wartime. We refuse to cease and desist from using the name of the AFL in connection with our strike. We are willing to abide by the decisions of Government

(Continued on page 6)

$2,878,242 Loew Profit

Loew's net profit for the 12 weeks ended Nov. 23 was $2,878,242, or $1.71 per share, compared to $2,796,861, or $1.67 per share, for the 12 weeks ended Nov. 25, 1943, David Bernstein, vice-president and treasurer, reported here Friday.

The company's share of operating profit, after subsidiaries' preferred dividends, was $7,030,831 for the 12 weeks, compared to $7,449,332 for the same 12 weeks in 1943. Profit before Federal taxes was $5,218,156 for 1944, compared to $5,688,715 for 1943. Reserve for taxes was $2,339,914 in 1944, compared to $2,891,854 in 1943.

The statement gives effect to revi-

(Continued on page 6)

WPB Says Industry Did Not Overbuild Backlogs of Product

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The 11 distributors had a total of 200 features on hand at the close of 1944, but definite 1945 release dates had been set for 157 of them and of that number all but 13 were to be distributed during the first half of this year, it was disclosed by the War Production Board on Friday in making known to industry raw stock advisory committee the result of its survey, undertaken following the last committee meeting.

Only 46 per cent of the pictures were held by the five biggest companies. The average per company was 11 pictures, and only three had in excess of that number. Only 13 of the pictures not scheduled for early release had gone to printing labora-

(Continued on page 3)

UA Board May Take Up Golden Deal

United Artists' board of directors, meeting here today, may consider a distribution deal for two pictures a year from Edward Golden Productions, it is learned. RKO Radio currently handles Golden product.

Sam Dembow, Jr., president of

(Continued on page 7)

INDEPENDENTS' RAW STOCK BANK ASKED

20th-Fox Pension Is Near Approval

Twentieth Century-Fox's board of directors is expected to approve shortly the final draft of a company pension plan which has been in preparation for some time and the plan will then go before the annual stockholders' meeting, on May 15, for adoption, it is learned here.

The plan is understood to embrace workers of the home office, exchanges and the studio; National Theatres, theatre subsidiary, will not be covered in the plan as it already has its own retirement plan in operation. The retirement age is expected to be 65 in most cases with the privilege, under certain circumstances, of earlier retirement.

The company will solely pay for the expenses of operation and premium payments; there will be no payments by employes nor will there be an underwriter. A fund will be set up for the operation of the plan by the company.

Prior to the plan's submission to stockholders, it will be sent to the Treasury Department for approval, which is expected to be forthcoming

WPB Proposal May Draw 20 Million Feet or More From Companies' Quotas

By BERTRAM F. LINZ

WASHINGTON, March 18.—A plan for setting up a pool from which independent producers may draw film, to be stocked by contributions from those companies with which the independents are affiliated, was laid before the motion picture industry advisory committee Friday by War Production Board officials. The proposed establishment of the pool was reported exclusively in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on March 8.

The proposal contemplates that second quarter allocations for both the companies and the newsreels will remain practically at present levels and that the contributing companies will supply film for the pool in proportion to the independent activities to which they are parties. Definite figures on the amount of stock to be put into the pool were not disclosed, but it was reported a reserve of somewhere in the neighborhood of 20,000,000 feet was under consideration, and while the plan called for contributions only from companies distribut-

(Continued on page 3)

"Without Love"

[*M-G-M*]

KATHARINE HEPBURN, in all probability, has never been seen to better advantage. It is a case of ditto with Spencer Tracy in an attraction heading swiftly and inevitably for big and happy grosses happily contributed by willing audiences. That is the kind of a show "Without Love" turns out to be.

What can be done in advertising and merchandising is implict in the title and should require no explanations forced down any exhibitor's throat to make that much apparent. "Without Love" is also Tracy's first since "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," Miss Hepburn's first since "Dragon Seed" and their first co-starring enterprise since "Keeper of the Flame" and "Woman of the Year" before that.

It seems to be the fact, too, that those who appreciate Miss Hepburn appreciate her no end while those who are marginal about her personality and her type of performance are — well, marginal, or less. This reviewer happens to view La Hepburn as an actress of considerable capabilities with a flair for the bravura and the brittle. Only this time, she mixes her ingredients with artful cleverness and, so, comes through with an acting job which emphasizes feminine softness and womanly wile to an extent not usually on display from her. The role, of course, had all to do with it. And that's all right because the chances are the marginals, or less, in the Hepburn column will like her the better, while the enthusiasts will all the more enthuse.

Based on Philip Barry's play, produced by the Theatre Guild, this is the tale — and amusing — of Tracy, scientist working on a high altitude oxygen mask

(Continued on page 7)

Raw Stock From Europe

Extensive manufacture of raw stock will probably get underway in plants in France and Belgium within the next few months, possibly turning out film in sufficient quantities to take care of the requirements of Europe, thereby easing the critical American raw stock situation, George Archibald, controller of the British Ministry of Information, declared during an interview here on Friday. Archibald, accompanied by Major Frank Owen of Admiral Mountbatten's staff, is here from London in connection with the completion of a

(Continued on page 3)

Personal Mention

JOSEPH HAZEN, Hal Wallis Productions president, is scheduled to arrive in New York today from the Coast.

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SOL A. SCHWARTZ, general manager of RKO out-of-town theatres, and his assistant, WILLIAM HOWARD, have left for Chicago en route to the Coast.

•

BEN KALMENSON, Warner general sales manager, and ED HINCHY, playdate department head, will return to New York today from Canada.

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CAPT. GENE MARKEY, head of the U. S. Navy Photographic Service, has been awarded the Bronze Star.

•

HERMAN WOBBER, 20th Century-Fox division manager, has arrived in New York from San Francisco.

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GEORGE A. SMITH, Paramount Western manager, has returned to New York from Los Angeles.

•

CARL LESERMAN, United Artists general sales manager, will leave here for the Coast tomorrow.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Warner Eastern sales manager, has returned to New York from Pittsburgh.

•

WILLIAM ERBB, Paramount Eastern division manager, is in Boston.

Appoint Paul Levi To 7th Loan Post

BOSTON, March 18.—Paul Levi, advertising-publicity director for the Metropolitan Theatre, here, has been named Massachusetts publicity chairman of the industry's participation in the Seventh War Loan, Harry Browning announces here.

Browning, who will be executive assistant to national chairman Samuel Pinanski, was Massachusetts publicity chairman in previous war loan drives.

Williams Leaves UA Exploitation Post

Rex Williams has resigned as United Artists director of exploitation, Barry Buchanan, UA director of advertising and publicity, has announced. Williams will announce a new association after a short vacation.

Williams, prior to his affiliation with UA, was city manager of Loew's Theatres in St. Louis; assistant to E. C. Beatty, president of the Butterfield Circuit, and district manager of the Indiana-Illinois Theatres Circuit.

'U' 50-Cent Dividend

J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board, has announced that the board of directors of Universal Pictures has declared a regular quarterly dividend of 50 cents per share on the stock of the company, payable April 30 to stockholders of record April 16.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

THAT the Department of Justice on occasion can be so carried away by its zeal for anti-trust prosecution that its endeavor appears to be more in the direction of the making of new laws than the enforcement of existing ones is the essence of an analysis of the U. S. Supreme Court decision in the Glass Industry case—an analysis made for the National Association of Manufacturers by George E. Folk, patent attorney for the American Telephone & Telegraph Co.

The interpretation has point for this industry as its major components prepare for the defense of the Government anti-trust suit against them at the trial scheduled for next Oct. 8. The Glass Industry case is similar in several vital respects to the suit against the motion picture industry because the one involved patents, the other copyrights, and the law applicable to patents and copyrights grants privileges to the owner thereof which are not bestowed upon other industries at large nor are they abridged, fundamentally, by the anti-trust laws.

•

While declaring the Supreme Court decision in the Glass Industry case to be "a heartening reaffirmation of the traditional right of a patent holder to his invention" (or of a copyright owner to his creation), the NAM interpretation also recalls that the decision "makes it clear that patent holders can be convicted of anti-trust law violation when they form combinations" that restrict interstate or foreign commerce unfairly. It calls attention, however, to the Supreme Court's condemnation of "judicial legislation" and what it called the Justice Department's effort "to obtain by court decree what is not in the law." The interpretation asserts that this referred to "such matters as compulsory licensing of patents, *prohibition of restricted licenses* and the cancellation of patents."

In respect to these matters, the interpretation continues, "the Justice Department and the lower court, according to the Supreme Court ruling, departed from well established principles backed by court decisions and were, in effect, seeking to make new laws," which is solely the right of Congress to do.

•

Applied to current events in the Government anti-trust suit in this industry, the NAM's interpretation of the Supreme Court's decision in the Glass Industry case would appear to leave no room for doubt that a motion picture copyright owner may lawfully enter into a licensing agreement with a theatre, affiliated or not affiliated with the licensee, which provides both for clearance and the admission price to be charged during exhibition of the picture. If that is not so, then the courts and their past interpretations of the copyright and patent laws have been misread.

The Justice Department's current attempts to prohibit by injunction either legal right of a motion picture copyright owner appears, thus, to come within the meaning of what the Supreme Court condemned as "judicial legislation" and a Justice Department effort "to obtain by court decree what is not in the law."

• •

There are 15,340 theatres enrolled in the industry's current Red Cross collections drive. That is 93 per cent of the operating theatres in the country and it constitutes a new high record for the industry in cash collection drives. That is an outstanding achievement, in which every member of the industry may take pride. It is particularly significant in view of the fact that, odd as it seems, local Red Cross chapters in a number of communities requested their neighborhood theatres not to take up collections, presumably on the grounds that the local chapters believed to do so might detract from other local Red Cross benefit activities which had been planned. In any event, many theatres which otherwise would have been participants in the industry drive were influenced not to do so by their community Red Cross organizations. That means that far less than seven per cent of the nation's theatres failed, of their own choice, to participate.

The exhibitors of America and all connected with the industry Red Cross drive have added still another noteworthy chapter to the industry's wartime record and its public spiritedness.

Margolies, Cowan's Press Chief Here

Albert Margolies has been appointed Eastern director of publicity and advertising for Lester Cowan Productions. He assumes his new post immediately and is already conferring with Bill Peirce, Jr., company's publicity and advertising chief, who is now in New York from Hollywood.

Margolies has been director of publicity and advertising for Gaumont-British and director of publicity for United Artists. During the past three years he has conducted his own publicity business.

Bob Montgomery, who has resigned from Lester Cowan Productions, will announce a new association later this week.

Allied Board Waives Protest on Curfew

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Allied States directors, polled recently on their views on the Byrnes' midnight curfew, indicated that very few Allied members would be affected by the closing edict and that no protest should be made.

Directors expressed indignation, however, over the classification in the Byrnes' edict of motion picture theatres "with the cats and dogs of the amusement world, such as sport arenas, dance halls, road houses, pool parlors, gambling establishments and saloons," Abram F. Myers, Allied chairman, reported.

PCCITO Trustees Retain Poole, Bruen

LOS ANGELES, March 18.—Trustees of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, concluding their annual meeting here, reelected Hugh W. Bruen treasurer and Robert H. Poole executive secretary.

The trustees also adopted a resolution commending "the good work of the Conference of Independent Exhibitors," pledging participation in its future activities. Next trustees' meeting will be held at Portland, Ore., on June 1, it was decided.

Air Shows to Mark Fox's 30th Year

Lux Radio Theatre will tonight salute over 142 CBS stations, the 30th anniversary of 20th Century-Fox. Yesterday, the Old Gold "Comedy Theatre," over 129 stations of NBC, also saluted 20th-Fox. Other nationwide programs are expected to mark the company's anniversary during April.

Mrs. Lazarus Services

Funeral services for Mrs. Paul Lazarus, Sr., wife of the United Artists contract department manager, were held yesterday at the Riverside Memorial Chapel. Mrs. Lazarus, who was 56, died Thursday after an extended illness. United Artists home office executives and others attended the services.

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Raw Stock From Europe

(Continued from page 1)

film on the Burma campaign, which was assembled in Hollywood under supervision of Col. Frank Capra.

Archibald will go to Washington this week to see a 'rough' print of the Burma film and discuss its distribution both in America and in England.

British Information Services here, which supervises American distribution of BMOI films, had an allocation of 11,000,000 feet of raw stock in 1944, of which only 7,500,000 feet was used. However, BIS received no direct allocation of film from the War Production Board during the first quarter of 1945 under the Office of War Information allocation.

6 Million for 'Adventure'

Up to 6,000,000 feet of stock will be required by BIS for the American release of "Atlantic Adventure (formerly "Western Approaches"), in color, going through Paramount; also, for "Journey Together" and possibly eight short war documentaries. Archibald said that BIS desires its own allocation, similar in quantity to last year. He also pointed out that it would help if the Office of War Information has its own film allocation from the British Board of Trade for the release of its films in England, rather than drawing upon BMOI allocations over there. Film for the release of "Tunisian Victory," a joint undertaking of British and American Army film units, came out of BIS allocations here for American release of the film.

Archibald disclosed that Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF) is planning to set up an entertainment control commission for the distribution of films in Germany under the Psychological Warfare Division.

The British Government's participation in the production of films in the postwar will probably lean to films for rehabilitation, education and other Governmental instructional purposes, Archibald pointed out.

Grand Rapids Tent Of Variety Starts

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., March 18.—The newly-formed Variety Club of Grand Rapids, Tent No. 27, plans an inaugural banquet for mid-April, at which officers will be formally inducted; The officers are: Jack Stewart, Universal, chief barker; Walter Norris, Butterfield Theatres, first assistant; G. L. Willer, Madison and Franklin Theatres, second assistant; Frank Kleaver, Uptown Theatre, property master; Leo J. Robinson, Fulton and Burton Theatres, dough guy. Canvassmen are: George Sampson, RKO; Syd Chapman, Paramount; Herb Schilds, Columbia; Naman Frank, Wayland Theatre, Wayland; Harold Hedler, Valley Theatre, Newago, and Oz Theatre, Fremont: Emmet Roche, Hart Theatre, Hart.

Altec Renews J. J.

J. J. Theatres, New York, has renewed agreements with Altec for servicing sound equipment in its theatres.

WPB Proposes Raw Stock Bank for Independents

(Continued from page 1)

ing for independents, it was suggested that other companies might be called upon in the event the demand proved too heavy for the pool.

The definition of an independent producer and the formula for withdrawals from the pool have not yet been worked out. However, it was agreed that supplies should be made available to independents who did not make any pictures last year, this including both those like Mary Pickford, who have not been active for a considerable period, and others like Hal Wallis, who are just getting under way.

The question of providing raw stock for foreign producers desiring to distribute in this country was not brought up and is still under consideration.

The decision to have the pool for independents formed by contributions from the companies distributing for them was reached by the WPB after consideration of the burden an all-industry contribution would impose upon those companies which have no independents attached and which, in effect, accordingly, would be in the position of contributing raw stock to other companies.

These proposals will be studied by the legal division and other branches of the WPB before they are translated into an amendment to the film order. After the order has been in effect a short time, another meeting of the committee will be called to discuss both its effects and the third quarter allocations. Members of the committee were assured that the date of the next meeting would be fixed well in advance, so that they could make their summer plans accordingly.

The officials disclosed that there is under consideration a program for expanding film manufacturing facilities within a year or 18 months. More immediate relief may be obtained through operation of the Eastman plant in Paris. French managerial officials of that plant were in Washington last week to discuss the situation. The plant now has some small production, they reported, but is short of coal; transportation is bad, and its chemical supply will be exhausted in the course of the next 60 days. WPB officials are seeking to secure chemicals for more extensive operation of the plant and the cooperation of the Army in the case of coal and transportation.

Committee members present at the meeting included: Neil Agnew, Vanguard; A. Schneider, Columbia; Steve Broidy, Monogram; Bert Kulick, PRC; Barney Briskin, Sol Lesser Prod.; N. Peter Rathvon, RKO; Robert M. Sivini, Astor Pictures; Edward C. Raftery, United Artists; Samuel Schneider, Warners; A. W. Schwalberg, International; Ted Toddy, Toddy Pictures; John R. Wood, Jr., March of Time; Thomas L. Walker, Edward Small Prod.; L. E. Goldhammer, Film Classics; Walter L. Titus, Jr., Republic; James A. Mulvey, Samuel Goldwyn Prod.; William F. Rodgers, Loew's, Inc.; John J. O'Connor, Universal; Roy G. Disney, Walt Disney Prod., and W. C. Michel, 20th Century-Fox.

Skirball Will Make 3 at $4,500,000

Jack Skirball, independent producer releasing through United Artists, will produce three films within the next 14 months, budgeted at $4,500,000, he disclosed to MOTION PICTURE DAILY before his departure for the Coast over the weekend. Skirball arrived in New York for conferences on "It's in the Bag," a May 1 release, with UA sales executives and William Horne, his Eastern sales representative, and Lou Goldberg, his Eastern advertising-publicity representative. He has also finished "What Every Woman Wants," made in association with Sam Wood, starring Claudette Colbert and Don Ameche.

His first new production, "A Genius in the Family," will start in June, Skirball said. Don Ameche will be starred. The other two will be "On Approval" and "French Town," from the stage play, "Sunny River," the last a musical in color with Sigmund Romberg and Oscar Hammerstein II slated to work on it.

The producer said that he would probably continue to release through UA and was talking a renewal deal with the company. He expects no difficulty on account of raw stock because he made more pictures in 1941 than this year.

Skirball said that he and Bruce Manning have signed Don Ameche to an exclusive three-year contract.

Release Stettinius Film on March 29

"Watchtower Over Tomorrow," a 15-minute short subject dealing with the Dumbarton Oaks' plan for an international security organization to keep the peace, and featuring Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., made by the industry for the Department of State and the Office of War Information, will be released on March 29.

The War Activities Committee, in announcing release of the film, pointed out that "Watchtower Over Tomorrow" is one of the 26 pledged films which 16,253 enrolled theatres are expected to play. The WAC distributor chairmen in each of the 31 exchange areas will handle this picture which will come to the screens a month before the United Nations' conference in San Francisco.

Ben Hecht suggested the title of the film and wrote the original story treatment. John Cromwell, president of the Screen Directors Guild and chairman of the Hollywood division of WAC, directed the picture, with Jerry Bresler, head of the M-G-M short subjects department, producing, and the entire industry cooperating.

In expressing his thanks for industry cooperation, Secretary Stettinius said: "Our appreciation is due the War Activities Committee of the motion picture industry for the patriotic effort it is making."

WPB Says Industry Did Not Overbuild Backlogs of Product

(Continued from page 1)

tories, and only 764 prints of those pictures had been made.

As previously estimated, the 11 companies had an inventory of about 10,000,000 feet of raw stock at the end of the year, or less than a five-day working supply.

The report disproved widespread rumors that the large companies have been building up unreasonably large inventories of pictures and raw stock. The companies surveyed were: Columbia, M-G-M-Loew's, Monogram, Paramount, Producers Releasing, RKO, Republic, 20th Century-Fox, United Artists, Universal and Warners.

117 at New Year

The 11 companies reported that of the 200 pictures on hand, 117 were completed at the end of 1944; one company had 17, another 16 and a third 14. Six companies, including three of the biggest companies, held between nine and 14 of the 83 pictures that had finished shooting.

It was found that definite release dates for this year had been set for all but 17 of the completed pictures and all but 26 of the 83 finished shooting. Of the completed films, 70 were scheduled for release in the first quarter, 25 in the second quarter, and five in the last half of the year; of the pictures finished shooting, 21 were scheduled for release in the first quarter, 28 in the second quarter and six in the last half.

WPB found that positive prints had been made of only 85 unreleased pictures. A total of 7,135 prints had been made, but 6,371 of these were accounted for in the 72 pictures scheduled for release during the first six months of this year.

Prints had been made for only eight of the 17 completed pictures not scheduled for release, to the number of 528, but these unnecessary prints were largely accounted for by the fact that the films had been scheduled for release but distribution had been held up because of conditions beyond the control of the producers.

72 Below Quota

The producers reported that they expect to make fewer than 285 prints for the domestic distribution of 72 completed pictures and more than that number for the remaining 39 pictures.

"If the number of prints of each of these 39 pictures were held to a maximum of 285, approximately 1,300 fewer prints would be made," the WPB said. "A reduction of 1,300 prints, averaging 10,000 feet per print, would result in a diversion of 13,000,000 feet of raw stock in connection with the pictures on hand as of Dec. 31, 1944," it was said.

'Dundass' Next Korda

LONDON, March 18.—"Lotte Dundass," story of an old English acting family, will be the second film to be made in England by M-G-M British Studios, Ltd., according to Sir Alexander Korda, in charge of the company's British productions. The film with star Vivien Leigh. The production will start in May, and will be adapted from a play by Enid Bagnold.

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WITH LENORE AUBERT

Produced by Robert Fellows *Directed by* Eddie Sutherland

Screen Play by Howard J. Green, Stewart Sterling and Parke Levy

RKO RADIO PICTURES

MEET Chili Williams ... the pin-up in polka dots

$2,878,242 Loew Profit

(Continued from page 1)

sion of the Loew-M-G-M film amortization table applicable to pictures released after Aug. 31, 1944. This revision of the amortization table, recommended by the company's accountants and adopted by the board of directors, is based upon the company's most recent film income experience. Under the newly adopted table the cost of pictures released after Aug. 31, 1944, will be amortized to the extent of 44.8 per cent at the end of 12 weeks instead of 56.9 per cent as formerly; 70.7 per cent at the end of 24 weeks instead of 76.4 per cent as formerly; 85.1 per cent at the end of 36 weeks instead of 86.6 per cent as formerly; 95 per cent at the end of 52 weeks, the same as formerly; 100 per cent at the end of a year and a half against 98.4 per cent as formerly. Allocation of cost will continue to be charged 75 per cent to domestic (including Canada) and 25 per cent to foreign as heretofore.

Under the previous table of amortization the company's net profits after taxes for the 12 weeks ended November 23, 1944, would have been $2,354,242.

Lett Leaves Paramount

CHARLOTTE, March 18.—Scott Lett, Paramount local manager for the past four years, has resigned. John Kirby, Atlanta district manager, will replace him temporarily.

Walsh Withdraws Threat Of Projectionist Walkout

(Continued from page 1)

agencies for the settlement of grievances but must insist that others abide by the decisions of these same agencies. I suggest that you wire President Walsh of IATSE to comply with the War Labor Board decisions and take such appeals from them as he sees fit." The strike had been called following a WLB order that the producers negotiate with Set Decorators Local 1421.

On hearing of Green's stand and Sorrell's defiance, Walsh said, "That suits me fine. Somebody's going to keep on making pictures, and it looks more than ever like it's going to be us."

Immediately after wiring Green, Sorrell invited all unions here to attend a mass meeting tonight at the Hollywood Legion Stadium, scene of the strike call a week ago, to hear a report on the walkout's progress and to plan the next steps.

The producers late Friday filed a complaint in Superior Court asking an injunction against the Screen Office Employes Guild, out since Tuesday, to prevent "further violation of the no-strike clause" in its contract. The Screen Publicists Guild and Screen Story Analysts, also out, could be proceded against similarly, but no action against them was filed. The producers did, however, telegraph the SPG that they were preparing an appeal to the WLB to compel the publicists to observe their no-strike clause.

The National Labor Relations Board completed hearings to determine whether there should be a review of its action in certifying Local 1421 as the bargaining agency for set decorators. A transcript of the testimony will be sent to Washington for decision.

A split in the Screen Actors Guild-Screen Writers Guild-Screen Directors Guild joint special committee, which had huddled three days in an attempt to devise a formula for settling the strike, came late last week when SAG withdrew its support from the undertaking and convened its executive committee for a brief meeting which culminated in a statement advising the members to ignor the picket lines pending the outcome of a mail-ballot vote on policy. This postpones the final determination of the actors' attitude until Wednesday. After SAG withdrew, SWG and SDG issued a joint statement holding the CSU, IATSE and producers equally responsible for the strike and appealing "to all three of these parties to pledge themselves to permit the legal processes of Government to determine the issue."

Roosevelt Non-Committal On Strike Intervention

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Whether the Government will intervene in the studio strike was still a question in Washington Friday. President Roosevelt, at his news conference, was told there were suggestions that he might take action, but he gave no indication that he would.

Para. Phoenix House Will Open March 22

PHOENIX, March 18.—The Palms Theatre, newest unit of Publix-Richards-Nace, Inc., will open March 22, Harry L. Nace, executive of the circuit, has announced here. The inaugural will be an invitational affair, with Gov. Sidney P. Osborn extending the invitations. Guests will include state and civic leaders and Hollywood stars.

The theatre seats 800, and will open with the Arizona premiere of "Salty O'Rourke," with a dedication trailer, featuring Hollywood stars extending congratulations to the circuit.

Lawrence Screens 'Blimp'

The Jock Lawrence Organization, American public relations representative of J. Arthur Rank, was host here Friday night at a dinner at '21' Club to United Artists' executives and trade press representatives and others prior to a special screening of "Colonel Blimp," one of the Rank films made in England and being released in this country by U. A.

An initial advertising budget of $35,000 has been announced for the film, which will open at Brandt's Gotham here March 29.

Savini Buys Three

R. M. Savini, president of Astor Pictures, here, has acquired from Gene Towne, president of The Play's The Thing Corp., the world rights to "Swiss Family Robinson." "Little Men" and "Tom Brown's School Days," formerly distributed by RKO. Astor is now preparing them for reissue.

Majority Claimed For Divorcement

MINNEAPOLIS, March 18.—E. J. Chilgren, member of the Minnesota state legislature lower house, who introduced the pending theatre divorcement bill, claims he has a majority of members of the general legislation committee pledged to report it out favorably. It had been referred to this committee.

Aimed principally at Minnesota Amusement Co., this territory's major circuit, and a Paramount subsidiary, the measure prohibits producer-distributor ownership or operation of theatres in Minnesota. The company would be compelled to divest itself of its theatres within one year after enactment. The penalty for violation is a fine up to $10,000 or a year imprisonment, or both.

Chilgren is from Little Fork, a small town, and declines to reveal who, if anyone, is behind the bill or what prompted him to introduce it. President Henry Greene, Jr., of North Central Allied, independent exhibitor's organization, says his group had nothing to do with the measure's introduction and North Central membership voted last week against supporting the bill.

'Pacific' Service Film To Be Shown Today

"Fury in the Pacific," first actual combat picture made jointly by the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, will be placed in general release next week by Warners for the War Activities Committee. The two-reeler, running 20 minutes, is composed of footage from the Pacific.

There will be three screenings of the picture today at the Preview Theatre, at 11 A. M., and at 3 and 5 P. M. A luncheon will be held in conjunction with a noontime showing, attended by Navy officers. A talk on the war in the Pacific by Admiral T. S. Wilkinson will be given at the 3 P. M. showing.

Poller to Buffalo on Depinet Sales Drive

BUFFALO, March 18.—M. J. Poller, assistant to Robert Mochrie, RKO general sales manager, has arrived here to join Robert Folliard, head of the 'Depinet Sales Drive,' and Harry Michalson, short subject sales manager. Following a meeting here the three will go to Montreal and Toronto.

Final meeting for the drive is set for the New York exchange on Thursday.

$1,089,717 B. & L. Net

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 8.—Directors of Bausch and Lomb Optical Co. report net income for the year ended Dec. 31 of $1,089,717, equal after all charges, to $2.03 a share on the common stock. This compares with $1,537,029, or $3.09 per common share in the previous year.

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SIMPP Brief Sings Familiar Refrain

Morris Ernst, Eastern counsel for the Society of Independent M. P. Producers, on Friday served a 27-page Amicus Curia brief on counsel for the five decree companies in the Government anti-trust suit. Permission was granted by Judge Henry W. Goddard for this action March 5 in conjunction with the hearing on the Government's plea for an injunction against clearance.

Ernst contended that independent producers have 'a vital stake' in the issue of clearance and divorcement since they have no theatres and depend upon affiliated theatres to exhibit their films.

The brief, it is learned, alleges that the industry revolves around the five major companies and three 'satellites.' These companies control the market, it is charged. Profits from affiliated circuits are said to dominate industry income. Among other things, the brief is understood to recite the history of motion picture patents and alleges a monopoly of talent.

The companies will answer the brief possibly before March 26 when Judge Goddard is scheduled to receive it officially in Federal District Court here.

Cotton Promotes Lauer

William M. Cotton, publisher of Ideal Women's Group, has appointed Edward S. Lauer vice-president and general manager of Ideal's four magazines: *Movie Life, Movies, Movie Stars Parade* and *Personal Romances.* Lauer joined the Ideal Group three years ago, as personal assistant to publisher Cotton.

"Without Love"

(*Continued from page* 1)

for the Army, and Miss Hepburn, scientist largely in the cause of dimming the excruciatingly glowing memories of a short-lived marriage. They think they have a clean-cut and workable understanding at the basis of their marriage, the idea being a union without love but with a firm sentiment in research. Anyone in the audience will know it won't work as Miss H. and Mr. T. have plotted it, that the real thing will blossom and blaze before the picture closes out. It does, but not before the oxygen mask is perfected and their love skein gets snarled in complication and misunderstanding. A secondary romance deals with Keenan Wynn, as a delightful and harum-scarum drunk, and Lucille Ball. Patricia Morison is the loser in this minor skirmish, which is the way the mob will want it anyway.

Miss Hepburn is utterly charming and extremely effective. Tracy clicks without a missout, and good and solid performances are delivered by Wynn, Miss Ball, Felix Bressart and Carl Esmond. Miss Morison indulges in an assortment of facial contortions which might be drama in some opinion, although not in this.

Since this essentially is played on celluloid, the dialogue is profuse and constantly on stage. But it is bright and witty dialogue, dipped in merriment and surrounded by production elegance in Metro's very best Culver City style. Donald Ogden Stewart's screenplay is expert and adult with broad mass-base comprehension. Harold S. Bucquet's direction is excellent. Lawrence A. Weingarten's overlordship of the entire production shows an all-purpose competence.

Running time, 111 mins. General classification. No release date set.

RED KANN

Fawcett Promotes 4 In Sales Department

Roscoe K. Fawcett Distributing Corp., Greenwich, Conn., announces that Roy V. Stening, formerly Fawcett distributing representative in Ohio, has been appointed manager of the Eastern sales division, and that Herbert J. Bliss, former supervisor of Fawcett Distributing in Texas, has been made Western sales division manager. Alber Dreyfuss, formerly traveling representative for Fawcett, has been appointed general assistant to both Stening and Bliss.

Ray F. Goodman, former manager of the Western sales division, is now assistant to Merton C. Cushman.

UA Board May Take Up Golden Deal

(*Continued from page* 1)

Golden Productions, is understood to have discussed a deal before with Gradwell Sears, UA sales vice-president, and with George Bagnall, UA vice-president, when Dembow was on the Coast recently. Consummation of a deal has been held up because of the uncertain raw stock situation.

The UA board also is expected to probe raw stock problems, the company being one of the hardest hit in this respect. Bagnall returned from Washington over the weekend where he was an unofficial participant in the raw stock talks.

Hampton Theatre in Clearance Charge

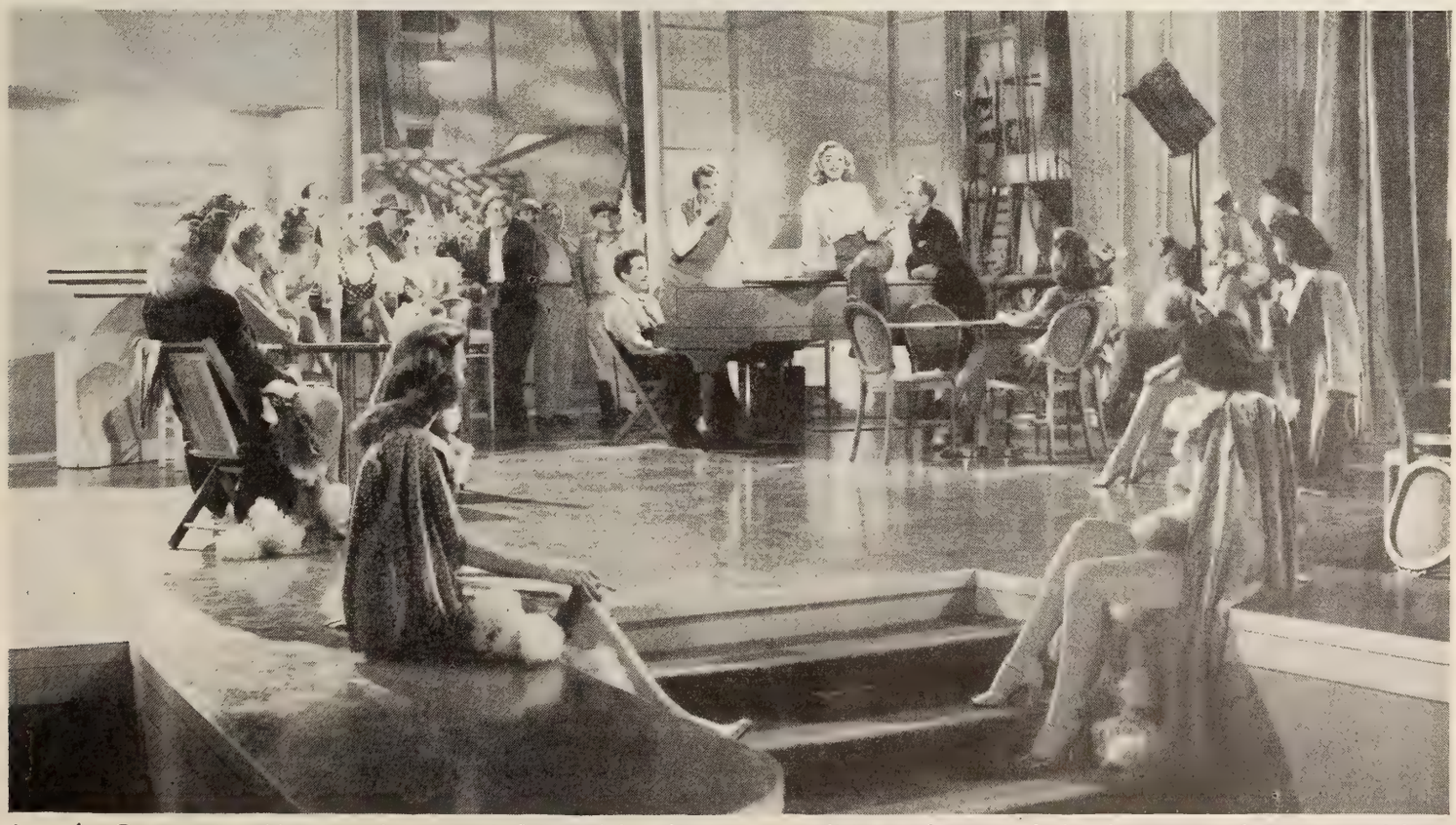
Bernard H. Stevens, operating the Hampton Theatre, Hampton Center, N. H., has filed a clearance complaint in the Boston tribunal against 20th Century-Fox, RKO Radio and Warners, the American Arbitration Association has reported here.

Complaint listed the following clearances to which he is subject: for 20th-Fox product, 14 days after the Premiere or Strand theatres, Newburyport, Mass.; 14 days after the Colonial and Olympia theatres, Portsmouth, N. H.; 14 days after the Ioka Theatre, Exeter, N. H.; 30 days after first run Haverhill, Mass. On RKO films, complainant listed his clearances as seven days after the Strand, Amesbury, Mass., and 14 days after Portsmouth, Newburyport and Exeter. Clearances on Warner product were detailed as 30 days after first-run Newburyport, Portsmouth and Haverhill, and 14 days after Amesbury and Exeter.

Complainant alleges that all clearances except the 14 days in favor of the Exeter are unreasonable and asks that they be abolished.

Cohn Succeeds Zigmond

KANSAS CITY, March 18.—M. B. Cohn, recently manager of the Fox Midwest midtown first-run Uptown Theatre, here, has succeeded Jerry Zigmond as manager of the Newman, Paramount first run. Cohn had been district advertising representative for Paramount for this exchange area, before joining Fox Midwest last year. He was district manager for Publix about 15 years ago, supervising Publix Theatres, here, and for several years managed in the East.



Lovely Constance Moore gives an informal backstage rendition of one of the hit tunes from Republic's "Earl Carroll Vanities" for Dennis O'Keefe, Otto Kruger, and some of the chorus lovelies. ADVT.

APRIL

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MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Theatres' Red Cross Week Mar. 15-21

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INDEPENDENTS GET 28 MILLION FEET

Bowles Plans Final Price Control Plea

Appears Before Senate Committee Tomorrow

WASHINGTON, March 19.—Price Administrator Chester A. Bowles will make a final attempt to interest Congress in his proposal to impose price control on motion picture admissions and on film rentals when he appears before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee Wednesday.

His suggestion was turned down by the Committee last week, but he was invited to appear before it to argue his case. The hearing originally was set for tomorrow, but was postponed a day.

Since Chairman Robert Wagner last week announced that the Committee saw no reason to amend the Price Control Act to provide for theatre regulation, OPA agents have been busy gathering material which Bowles will use to bolster his argument that

(*Continued on page* 12)

See State Theatre Code Being Delayed

Promulgation of building code provisions for existing theatres and other places of public assembly in the State of New York, with the exception of New York City, will get underway shortly by the New York State Labor Department's advisory committee, which includes industry representatives.

While the committee has practically completed consideration of code provisions as they apply to theatres

(*Continued on page* 9)

V-P Day Aided by Films: Wilkinson

By EDWARD SMITH

"The motion picture has not only been the best, and in most cases the only entertainment for millions of servicemen, but has helped morale to an extent which I believe may have shortened the war," Vice Admiral T. W. Wilkinson, USN, Commander Third Amphibious Force, told a gathering of Navy officers, industry

(*Continued on page* 3)

B'way Theatres Use Extra Curfew Hour; Holdovers in Lead

Broadway first-runs theatres are taking advantage of the extra hour of operation provided by Mayor F. H. LaGuardia's moving back of the midnight curfew to one P.M. in New York City. Holdovers predominate on the street this week with business being profitable but not outstanding.

"A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" and a stage show featuring Victor Borge and Joan Edwards, at the Roxy, and "The Picture of Dorian Gray," combined with a stage bill presenting Lena Horne, Robert Walker and Xavier Cugat and his band, at the Capitol, are drawing heavily in third weeks. With $65,000 recorded for the first four days, "A Tree Grows in

(*Continued on page* 3)

OWM Curfew Edict Stands

WASHINGTON, March 19.—Declaring that to attempt to enforce the curfew on entertainment without the cooperation of local officials would be futile, War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes today indicated that the Federal Government will take no action to combat the 'hour of tolerance' adopted for New York City by Mayor LaGuardia.

Despite New York's defection,

(*Continued on page* 3)

3 Named to Issue Independents' Stock

WASHINGTON, March 19.—A scheduling committee of three independent producer representatives to pass upon qualifications of independent producer applicants for raw stock from the new bank established by the War Production Board, and to determine the amount of footage to which each qualified applicant is entitled, has been set up.

Members of the committee are: Barney Briskin, representative of Sol Lesser Prod.; Thomas L. Walker, representative of Edward Small Prod., and Roy Disney, representative of Walt Disney Prod.

The raw stock bank for independents will open with total deposits in excess of 28,000,000 feet of raw stock. Producing-distributing companies who released for independent producers will contribute to the bank 100 per cent of the raw stock used by their independent producers in 1941; whereas the companies' own quotas will be only about 75 per cent of their 1941 consumption.

In the case of United Artists, this means a deposit to the independents' bank of more than 16,000,000 feet of raw stock; for RKO, 5,000,000 feet, for Paramount, 1,000,000 feet, and, additionally, all companies will con-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Stock Cut of Six Million From Para., RKO Alone For 'Bank' for 2d Quarter

WASHINGTON, March 19.—Raw stock quotas of all producing-distributing companies for the second quarter of 1945 were reduced from a matter of several thousand feet in most instances up to reductions of nearly 5,000,000 feet for RKO and over 1,000,000 feet for Paramount, compared with the current quarter, as the War Production Board yesterday set up a raw stock bank of 28,323,720 feet for independent producers for the coming quarter.

Under the move, United Artists, exclusively a distributing company for independent producers, receives no allocation in its own name and the 16,157,760 feet set aside for it in this quarter is transferred to the independ-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Arthur to Supreme Court on Appeal

Harry Arthur's St. Louis Amusement Co., which had unsuccessfully sought to intervene in the Government anti-trust suit against the producer-distributors, was granted the right to appeal this decision to the Supreme Court yesterday by Judge Francis G.

(*Continued on page* 9)

Strike Settles into Endurance Contest

By WILLIAM R. WEAVER

HOLLYWOOD, March 19.—The studio strike appeared settling down to an endurance test at the start of its second week, with the producers asserting work was proceeding on 23 features and with the strikers claiming the real pinch will be felt when the time comes

(*Continued on page* 9)

Individual Raw Stock Quotas

Washington, March 19.—Following are the raw stock quotas of individual companies, and the allocation to the independent producers' 'bank,' for the second quarter of 1945 as announced by the War Production Board here today, as compared with quotas for the first 1945 quarter:

Company	*Current Quarter*	*Last Quarter*
Columbia	28,130,580 ft.	28,505,600 ft.
M-G-M	39,191,760 "	39,713,280 "
Monogram	7,597,710 "	7,697,920 "
Paramount	27,658,170 "	28,948,480 "
PRC	5,112,990 "	5,181,440 "
RKO	21,430,710 "	25,850,880 "
Republic	17,082,450 "	17,318,400 "
20th Century-Fox	29,573,910 "	29,967,360 "
Universal	25,523,190 "	25,863,680 "
Warners	31,374,810 "	31,792,640 "
Independent Producers	28,323,720 "	None

United Artists' quota of 16,157,760 feet for the first quarter, earmarked for independent producers' product, has been turned into the independents' 'bank' in its entirety for the second quarter.

Reviewed Today

Reviews of "Tarzan and the Amazons," "The House of Fear" and "Rough Ridin' Justice" appear on page 18.

Jackter Will Head Montague Campaign

Rube Jackter, Columbia assistant general sales manager, has been appointed chairman of the committee in charge of the 'Montague 20th Anniversary' campaign, it was announced by the company yesterday. The campaign, which will run 15 weeks, to June 28, got under way on March 16.

Jackter is now completing plans for a series of competitive events to be outlined as the campaign progresses. Awards will be set up to include all company branch managers, salesmen and bookers.

Columbia Luncheon for Montague in Chicago

CHICAGO, March 19.—Ben Lourie, branch manager of Columbia here, was host to local exhibitors at a party held in the exchange in honor of the '20th Anniversary Drive' for Abe Montague, general sales manager.

PRC Publicity to Coast, Blair Leaves

With the arrival here yesterday of Don McElwaine, PRC's national advertising-publicity director, from Hollywood, and the decision to transfer the company's Eastern department to the studios in Hollywood, Harry Blair, Eastern director, has resigned, effective immediately.

All Eastern press and promotional activities are involved in the transfer, to effect a concentration at the studios, with the company maintaining only one exploiteer at the New York office.

John Blakely, Pioneer Exhibitor, Is Dead

LEXINGTON, Ky., March 19.—Funeral services were held here Saturday for John Blakely, 62, president of the Elliott-Ward Enterprises, which operates a chain of theatres in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. Blakely died Thursday after a four-day illness.

He was reported to be the oldest exhibitor from the point of service in Kentucky, having been associated with the operation of the first theatre in Lexington, the Princess. In 1910, in conjunction with others, he formed Colonial Amusement Co., and opened the Colonial. In 1936, Blakely organized the company he was with at the time of his death.

St. Louis Insists on Single Operator

ST. LOUIS, March 19.—The St. Louis Motion Picture Exhibitors Committee will ask Mayor Aloysius Kaufmann for permission to go before the St. Louis Board of Aldermen and with a request that the local ordinance requiring two projectionists in theatre booths be suspended as a wartime measure.

The committee has been waging a fight for several months against the ordinance on the grounds it is unnecessary and, in view of the manpower shortage, unpatriotic.

Personal Mention

PHIL REISMAN, RKO Radio vice-president in charge of foreign distribution, has returned to New York from London and Paris.

•

RALPH MCCOY, Southern sales manager for Warners, at Atlanta, has gone to Memphis accompanied by HENRY KRUMM, Atlanta branch manager, and HERB PICKMAN, publicity director.

•

LOUIS K. ANSELL, president of Ansell Brothers Theatres, St. Louis, and chairman of the St. Louis M. P. Exhibitors Committee, is in Hollywood on business.

•

DAVE MILLER, Universal district manager, and MRS. MILLER, are en route to Florida, from Cleveland, vacation-bound.

•

HENRY NEEDLES, Warner district theatre manager, at Hartford, and MRS. NEEDLES, are observing their 28th wedding anniversary.

•

MRS. BAILEY PRICHARD, wife of Monogram's Memphis manager, is recovering in Methodist Hospital, that city, from an operation.

•

JACK H. SKIRBALL, who reached New York Saturday from Hollywood, is on his way back to the Coast.

•

HARRY GRAHAM, Universal's Southern divison manager, is visiting the Charlotte branch.

•

ROSE WEITZ of United Artists' Cleveland exchange staff, is vacationing in Florida.

•

ADA SIEGEL, editor of *This Month* magazine, has left New York for a Canadian tour.

•

IRVING RAPPER, Warner director, will leave Burbank this week for New York.

•

LOU BROWN, Loew's Poli New England publicity director, is in Hartford.

•

MONTY BANKS, 20th Century-Fox producer-director, is here from the Coast.

•

NED GREENE, exhibitor of Mayfield, Ky., has recovered from a month's illness.

LEONARD GOLDENSON, Paramount vice-president in charge of theatre operations, has returned to New York from Florida and Cuba conferences with circuit partners.

•

NED E. DEPINET, RKO Radio president, convalescing at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, will leave next weekend to spend three weeks in Phoenix, Arizona, before returning to New York.

•

HARRY BALLANCE, Southern division manager for 20th Century-Fox, has returned to Atlanta from a tour of his territory. He accompanied TOM CONNORS, 20th's general sales manager.

•

MRS. JAMES ROGER, wife of the Columbia branch manager at Memphis, is in Baptist Hospital, that city, awaiting an operation.

•

JACK KIRBY, Paramount Southern division manager, is visiting Charlotte, from Atlanta.

•

TED LLOYD of 20th Century's home office radio department, has returned to New York from the Coast studio.

•

STEVE BROIDY, Monogram vice-president and general sales manager, left here yesterday for the Coast.

•

HARRY THOMAS, Monogram Eastern sales manager, left yesterday for Buffalo, Detroit and Chicago.

•

GEORGE ETTINGER, head of Columbia radio publicity at the home office, is in Hartford on business.

•

WALTER L. TITUS, JR., in charge of branch operations for Republic, is in Boston.

•

NATE YAMINS, theatre operator, has left Boston for three weeks at Palm Beach, Fla.

•

AL SCHUMAN, Bridgeport, Conn., exhibitor, is vacationing in Florida.

•

JACK KOPSTEIN, Astor Pictures, has returned to New York from Miami.

•

B. B. GARNER of Florida State Theatres, is visiting in Atlanta.

•

JULIUS LEVINE, United Artists traveling auditor, is in Atlanta.

Court Denies Trust Suit's Trial Now

Federal Judge John C. Knox in New York Federal Court yesterday denied a petition of Hillside Amusement Co. for a May 1 trial against the producer-distributors. Judge Knox declared that the defendant companies are "not prepared for trial because they have other commitments before Judge Goddard," referring to the Government's anti-trust suit.

Hillside, operator of the Mayfair, Hillside, N. J., claims triple damages under the Sherman Act, alleging the defendants cut its theatre off from product. Damages of over $1,000,000 are sought.

Distributors Settle Coast Ventura Suit

LOS ANGELES, March 19.—The suit for $75,000 damages brought a year ago by Ventura Theatre-owner Jenne Dodge, aaginst Fox West Coast, Universal, Principal Theatres and American Amusement Co. under anti-trust laws, was dismissed today by Federal Judge Harry Hollzer, due to the failure of complainant's counsel to amend the complaint.

Originally filed by the late Albert J. Law, dismissal was granted on a motion by FWC attorney Allen Ashbury. Dodge attorney David Cannon admitted the litigants had reached a compromise settlement.

President's Drive Speech to Theatres

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's special five-minute Red Cross message tonight, at nine P.M., EWT, will be 'piped-in' to theatre audiences across the nation, according to word received from the national committee of the industry's Red Cross War Fund Week.

Managers are scheduling their shows so that collections can be taken up immediately following the Chief Executive's talk.

Roy Rogers to Army

HOLLYWOOD, March 19.—Roy Rogers, Republic Western star, will enter the Army June 4, following a tour of Army hospitals beginning April 4.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. & 6th Ave.
RITA HAYWORTH
"TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT"
JANET BLAIR ★ LEE BOWMAN
A Columbia Picture in TECHNICOLOR
SPECTACULAR STAGE PRESENTATION

STATE
ON SCREEN
'MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS'
Judy GARLAND
Margaret O'BRIEN
IN PERSON
VINCENT LOPEZ and ORCH.

Paramount presents
Veronica LAKE Sonny TUFTS
Eddie Bracken Marjorie Reynolds
"BRING on the GIRLS"
In Person
The Ink Spots
Ella Fitzgerald
Buck & Bubbles
Cootie Williams and his Orchestra
PARAMOUNT

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Dick Powell
Claire Trevor - Anne Shirley
"Murder, My Sweet"
AN RKO RADIO PICTURE

SAMUEL GOLDWYN Presents
BOB HOPE
'THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE'
in Technicolor
Continuous Doors open 8:30 A.M.
ASTOR
Broadway & 45th Street
Popular Prices

WALT DISNEY'S
'The THREE CABALLEROS'
in TECHNICOLOR
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
NOW - - - Brandt's GLOBE

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George Pal to Make Television Shorts

George Pal, Paramount 'Puppetoon' producer, is negotiating with several commercial sponsors for postwar production of a series of entertainment television shorts and some 26 television commercials, from one to two minutes long, using 16 mm. film, the producer told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here yesterday. Pal is in New York to confer with Oscar Morgan, Paramount short subjects sales manager; Russell Holman, Eastern production manager, and Richard Murray on his 1945-46 program of color 'Puppetoons.' He is also expected to renew his releasing deal with Paramount for another two years.

Pal said that he would probably increase the number of 'Puppetoons' produced last year, with his work on training films for the Army and Navy tapering off; last season he turned out nine of the shorts, and he can turn out double that number if necessary, he said. He produced twice the amount of footage for the military as for Paramount last season, Pal stated.

Actors and Puppets

The producer said that he will probably make sequences for a Paramount feature, either with puppets or with a combination of 'live' actors and puppets. Also under discussion with Paramount home office executives, Pal said, is a new series in black and white, combining puppets with 'live' action.

Pal revealed that Bud Box Enterprises, which handles commercial tie-ups for him, has arranged for the making, by Fawcett Publications, of a comic book of the Pal characters and also a comic strip, utilizing drawings with a three-dimensional effect. Two children's books are also being brought out this year, by Diamond Publishing Co.

His Eindhoven, Holland, studios will be given to his employes in that country, Pal said. The Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs has asked him to produce a short, based on the music of Antonini, the South American composer, Pal said.

Although admitting that he has considered the possibility of making educational films, Pal said that the difficulty lay in securing sufficient distribution to cover production costs.

Pal will return to the Coast in about two weeks.

20th Board May Act On Pension Plan

The 20th Century-Fox board of directors is scheduled to meet here on Thursday, at which time it may pass on the final draft of the company's pension plan, as reported yesterday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY. Stockholders may get the plan at their annual meeting. The plan is understood to include workers at home office, exchanges and studio.

David Carter Dies

Funeral services will be held in Wauseon, O., tomorrow for David Carter, formerly Universal New York radio contact and previous to that with Columbia Pictures and Pan-American Airways. Carter died at his home in Forest Hills, New York, at the age of 35, of heart disease. He is survived by his widow and a 10-year-old daughter.

B'way Houses Use Extra Hour; Holdovers Leading

(*Continued from page* 1)

Brooklyn" is headed for a big $85,000 with two or three more weeks indicated and "A Royal Scandal" set to follow. A good $70,000 is expected for the third week of "Dorian Gray," on the basis of $45,000 recorded for the first four days. The Roxy has increased its operating time by half an hour with the last complete show now starting at 9:30 p.m. The Capitol is taking advantage of the full hour.

"Tonight and Every Night" is continuing moderately at Radio City Music Hall, with $95,000 expected for the second and final week on the basis of $62,000 taken in the first four days. "Without Love" is now set for this Thursday with the theatre's customary Easter stage show. The Music Hall will change its operating schedule on Thursday, to take advantage of the extra hour.

A sturdy $55,000 is expected for the third week of "Bring on the Girls" and a stage show featuring the Ink Spots, Ella Fitzgerald, Buck and Bubbles and others at the Paramount. The combination will remain for a fourth and final week with the theatre's Easter show, "Practically Yours" plus Benny Goodman and his band on the stage. "Hotel Berlin" will bow out of the Strand Thursday night after three weeks with a moderate $44,000 expected for the final week. "God is My Co-Pilot" and Cab Calloway and his band on the stage will be the new Strand bill starting Friday.

"Thunderhead, Son of Flicka" is drawing good business at the Victoria in a first week with a profitable $23,000 expected; it will continue. "Murder, My Sweet" will bring close to $23,000 for a sturdy second week at the Palace, it will hold for a third week with "The Belle of the Yukon" to follow. "Keep Your Powder Dry" continues profitably at the Criterion with $25,000 expected for a second week; it will probably continue for at least a third.

"The Princess and the Pirate," at the Astor, and "The Three Caballeros," at the Globe, are holding up well in sixth and seventh weeks, respectively. Both will continue indefinitely with $24,000 expected for the sixth week of "The Princess" and $12,500 anticipated for the seventh week of "Caballeros." "Roughly Speaking" is continuing to do mild business at the Hollywood with $11,000 expected for a seventh week. The film will continue for an eighth week with "The Corn is Green" to follow.

"Mr. Emmanuel" is down to $5,800 in an 11th week at the Gotham, with "Colonel Blimp" set to follow, on March 29. "The House of Fear" is expected to draw a mild $7,000 for its initial week at the Rialto, with "Rough, Tough and Ready" to follow. "Utah" is expected to bring a slow $3,000 for a second week at the Republic; it will hold for a third week with "Earl Carroll Vanities" to follow, on March 31. A quiet $14,000 is expected for the second week for "Song of Bernadette" on a return run at popular prices at the Rivoli; it will hold until March 27.

War Losses Heavy on Albany's Film Row

ALBANY, N. Y., March 19.—Word of the death of two former staff members of the Paramount branch, has been received. They were Lawrence Henderson, killed somewhere on the Western Front, and Al McIntyre, killed in Italy. Henderson was unmarried; McIntyre had a wife and two children. First member of the Albany backroom union to meet death in action was Peter Crill, Warners.

In addition, the sons of two Film Row men have lost their lives in the war. They were the sons of Arthur Horn, M-G-M salesman, and the son of Edward J. Wall, director of exploitation for Paramount in Albany and Buffalo districts.

Pfc. Ted Rosen, son of Leo Rosen, manager of Warners' Strand, has been wounded while serving with the Fifth Army in Italy.

Katherine Garfield Dies

HOLLYWOOD, March 16.—Katherine Garfield, six-year-old daughter of John Garfield, screen actor, died here unexpectedly yesterday. The child succumbed to a throat ailment. The Garfields have one other child, a son, David, 20 months old.

UA Board Meets

The United Artists board of directors met here yesterday, but issued no statement. Among the subjects scheduled to be taken up was understood to be a releasing deal for Edward Golden Prod. product.

Curfew Will Hold, Despite N.Y. Action

(*Continued from page* 1)

Byrnes said, the curfew will be continued, and "The Government does not intend to withdraw its request for places of entertainment to close at midnight."

In Congress, Senator Bridges of New Hampshire declared Byrnes should either make New York comply with the curfew or lift it entirely, but the OWM chief put the city in a class by itself, in contrast with immediate reports from other big cities throughout the country that they will continue to observe the curfew.

"I still ask the full cooperation of all local officials and of the public in support of this request," Byrnes said. "In those instances in which local officials report violations the Government will apply those sanctions which are available for the purpose."

Byrnes said he was "surprised" at LaGuardia's action, but expressed confidence that the managers of places of entertainment would continue to comply "patriotically".

After the defeat of Germany, he said, many of the existing shortages will disappear, but he emphasized that this is not the time to relax efforts to back up our fighting men.

A sweeping revision of the Government's midnight curfew, under which all restaurants not providing entertainment may now remain open all night, has been issued by Byrnes, it was learned here.

Loew Pension Fund Hits $6,374,000

Loew's has made the second 'deposit' in its employment retirement plan, bringing the total fund for the two years of operation to $6,374,000.

In 10 weeks, Loew's employes have purchased $3,000,000 more insurance under the company's group insurance plan, bringing total policies now in force close to $16,000,000. Between September 1943 and September 1944, claims paid to employees totalled $206,000, bringing total benefits in 14 years to $1,373,250.

V-P Day Aided by Films: Wilkinson

(*Continued from page* 1)

and War Activity Committee executives and trade press representatives here yesterday at a luncheon at the Astor Hotel. The luncheon followed the first of four screenings of "Fury in the Pacific," a 20-minute subject prepared by Army, Navy and Marine Corps cameramen, of the invasion and capture of the Peleliu and Anguar islands in the South Pacific.

The subject ranks among the greatest war films ever made. A crew of 39 cameramen took some 580 scenes of the invasions and nine of them fell during the engagement. Stark realism with all the horrors of war are shown.

The picture opens with the preparation for landings with bombings and strafings and then finally the fleet bombardment at closer views than usually seen.

This is a picture which will destroy complacency and which should add in making the home front aware of the job that remains to be done. It cannot be viewed calmly, and as it rushes to its climax it captures its audience completely. Release has been set for Thursday, with Warners handling distribution. The release is sponsored by WAC.

Realistic Portrayal

Admiral Wilkinson stated that the film is not overdrawn, and is a realistic portrayal of what takes place at every invasion landing. He declared that even though we have neutralized Jap defenses we still have not pushed them back to the positions they held immediately after Pearl Harbor. The three-star Admiral declared that the "film industry has done a magnificent job in its selling of bonds and its aid to morale. Let us have another all-out effort on the home front, gentlemen, and with that kind of support, I will guarantee you that your Navy will not let you down."

Attending the showing of the film and the luncheon were N. Peter Rathvon, J. Robert Rubin, Jack Cohn, Harry Brandt, Max Cohn, Terry Ramsaye, Samuel Pinanski, Sam Briskin, Leo Brecher, Lee W. Newbury, Spyros Skouras, Si Fabian, Samuel Rinzler, Lt. Commander Richard Barthelmess, aide to Admiral Leary; Captain Gene Markey, USN, who introduced Admiral Wilkinson, and a number of other high ranking Naval officials.

20th Century-Fox is proud that for the second

AND THESE

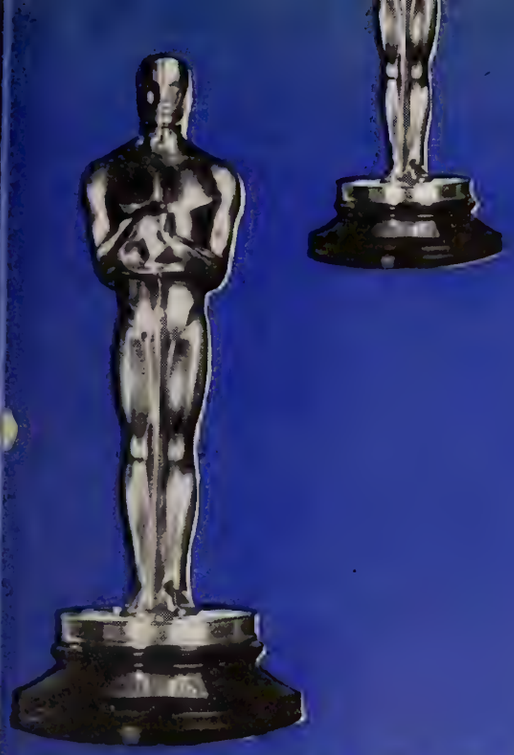
Academy Awards

WILSON
Best Screenplay
LAMAR TROTTI

WILSON
Best Art Direction
(color film)
WIARD IHNEN

WILSON
Best Cinematography
(color film)
LEON SHAMROY

WILSON
Best Sound Recording
E. H. HANSEN



time DARRYL F. ZANUCK

has been honored with the coveted

Irving Thalberg

AWARD

for the highest consistent standard of achievement with "Wilson," "The Purple Heart" and "Winged Victory"

WILSON
Best Film Editing
BARBARA McLEAN

WILSON
Best Interior Decoration
(color film)
THOMAS LITTLE

LAURA
Best Cinematography
(black & white)
JOSEPH LaSHELLE

THE FIGHTING LADY
Best Documentary Picture
LOUIS de ROCHEMONT

COLLECT AT EVERY SHOW! RED CROSS WEEK—MARCH 15-21

RKO'S FULL PAGE ADS TO 29,007,375 CIRCULATION!

"The Showmanship Company" backs up a great show with full page seat-selling ads in publications like WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION — McCALL'S — RED BOOK — COLLIER'S — LOOK — LIBERTY — WOMAN'S DAY—TRUE STORY—FAMILY CIRCLE and the ENTIRE FAN LIST. The ad reproduced here appears in Liberty and three fan magazines.

GET CREDIT FOR YOUR RED CROSS COLLECTION.
SEND YOUR REPORT TO YOUR AREA CHAIRMAN.

Seeing 'The Enchanted Cottage' gives one the feeling of having discovered some rare jewel. Only at the widest of intervals is the motion picture industry fortunate enough to produce a picture like this, a thing of such moving, surpassing beauty that its every element seems perfect. Here is presented one of the most touching and poignantly beautiful love stories ever brought to the screen, and done so outstandingly that it is difficult not to use superlatives concerning its every phase."

—HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"A natural, both as to box office and entertainment."
—*Motion Picture Herald*

"Will play a merry tune at the box-office." —*Variety*

"One of the month's most noteworthy screen events."
—*Boxoffice*

"In the top bracket."
—*Hollywood Variety*

"Beats a path of its own . . . an attraction of some size."
—*Motion Picture Daily*

"Deeply moving . . . has tremendous appeal for women." —*Film Daily*

"Timely . . . should prove beneficial to box-office."
—*Showmen's Trade Review*

"Unusual love story will get the women's vote."
—*The Exhibitor*

NATIONAL PRESENTATION IN MID-APRIL!

Paramount Loans Firestone to 7th

Alfred Finestone of Paramount's home office publicity department, has been loaned to the national committee of the Seventh War Loan and will serve as assistant director of publicity on a full-time basis, John Hertz, Jr., chairman of drive publicity and advertising, announced here yesterday.

Arrangements for his services, which were requested by Samuel Pinanski, national chairman, were made with R. M. Gillham, Paramount advertising-publicity director. Finestone also was loaned to the national committee of the Fifth War Loan.

Screen Canteen to Mark 2nd Birthday

Executives and employes of film companies in New York will attend a second anniversary celebration of the Silver Screen Canteen at the Fraternal Clubhouse here tomorrow night. The Canteen is operated by the Screen Office and Professional Employes Guild and the Screen Publicists Guild of New York, both of the United Office and Professional Workers of America.

Entertainers at tomorrow's birthday party will include Sheila Barrett, Dorothy Ross, June Knight, Molly Picon and others.

THREE ASSOCIATED SERVICES

FREE & PETERS, Inc.

James L. Free, *Chairman.* H. Preston Peters, *President.* Since 1932, exclusive national sales representatives of leading radio stations from coast to coast. Offices in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, San Francisco and Hollywood. Now planning post-war expansion in FM and Television representation.

WRIGHT-SONOVOX, Inc.

James L. Free, *President.* Ward R. Hickok, *General Manager.* Since 1941, exclusive developers and licensors of Sonovox "*Talking and Singing Sound,*" exploiting commercial and artistic uses of Gilbert Wright's basic patented invention, in radio and motion pictures. Headquarters in Hollywood.

JAMES L. FREE PRODUCTIONS

James L. Free, *Producer.* Norman Wright, *Director.* Headquarters in Hollywood. Fred Mitchell, New York Representative. Now producing series of one-reel quality shorts for major release, plus television: "The Wonderful Ears of Johnnie McGoggin," using Sonovox *Talking and Singing Sound.* Also producing motion picture commercials for experimental television, and "minute movies" for theatre distribution.

NEW YORK: 444 Madison Ave. Plaza 5-4130

CHICAGO: 180 N. Michigan Ave. Franklin 6373

HOLLYWOOD: 6331 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood 2151

Independents to Get 28 Million Ft. of Raw Stock

(*Continued from page* 1)

ent producers' bank. The approximately 6,000,000 feet shaved from RKO and Paramount allocations also is transferred to the bank, presumably for use of the independent producers, Samuel Goldwyn, International Pictures, Golden Prod., Walt Disney, Hal Wallis Prod. and Pine-Thomas, releasing through the two companies.

The over-all cut for the producing-distributing companies amounts to approximately 3,000,000 feet, or about one per cent, for the second quarter as compared with the first. Approximately 5,000,000 additional feet of film is being made available to commercial motion pictures for the second quarter by the WPB and this, presumably, will be an additional "deposit" in the independent producers' bank.

Halve Army Credit

The raw stock credit to the companies from the Army, amounting to approximately 50 per cent of the stock used for prints supplied to the Army, will be cut in half by WPB. The independents' bank will get 25 per cent of the raw stock credit from the Army and the producing-distributing companies the other 25 per cent under the new arrangement.

The allocation to the Office of War Information has been increased by about 9,000,000 feet, it is reported.

The overall raw stock available for the second quarter represents an increase to a total of 261,000,000 linear feet, compared with 255,977,440 feet in the current quarter and 271,689,797 feet for the last quarter of 1944.

The Board said that the total amount of film expected to be available for newsreel operations in the second quarter is expected to be the same as in the present quarter, for which 53,000,000 feet were allotted.

The official review of the proceedings of the Industry Committee meeting last Friday disclosed that some important changes may be made in the forthcoming revision of Order L-178. Apart from the plan to cut from 50 to 25 per cent the credits for prints lent to the Army, the over-all amount of film available to producers and distributors will be about 6,000,000 feet less than in this quarter. WPB officials assured the Committee that they would issue credits promptly to enable distributors to replace or supplement prints as needed for general distributing by them after they are returned by the Armed Forces.

'Fiat' or Average

The proposal to place a ceiling of 285 on prints for features may also be made formal through incorporation in the order, but it was not disclosed tonight whether that ceiling would be "fiat" or, as proposed by one committee member, made an average, thus permitting a distributor to provide a larger number of prints on his most important features and make up the film used by cutting the number on other pictures. An average ceiling would benefit producers like Goldwyn, who put out two or three pictures a year, particularly, it was represented.

Officials also emphasized that they plan to permit the use of 35mm film only in accordance with quotas assigned by WPB, and that this would apply to short ends as well as full lengths of film.

The maximum possible production of 35mm. film in the second quarter was estimated by the Board at 610,000,000 linear feet. To secure a 25 per cent increase in the production of certain types of film would necessitate plant expansion costing at least $15,000,000 and while such a program is under consideration, the major factor is the length of time that would be required to secure the additional output.

Screen 5 RKO Films From April 16 to 19

Trade screenings of five RKO pictures will be held in the company's exchange centers April 16 through 19. Screenings are as follows:

April 16, "Zombies On Broadway," with the exception of St. Louis, where the film will be shown April 17; "Those Endearing Young Charms," with St. Louis also showing the film on the 17th; "The Body Snatcher," April 17, with Salt Lake City showing the film April 9, and no screening set for St. Louis where the film has already been shown; "China Sky," April 17, with the exception of St. Louis, which will show the film on the 18th; April 18, "Tarzan and the Amazons," with St. Louis showing the film on the 19th, and Los Angeles and New York having had previous screenings.

Dates Anniversary Films

CHICAGO, March 19. — Balaban and Katz is dating the 20th Century-Fox 30th anniversary early by playing simultaneously in the Loop three of the company's top pictures. Although the United Artists is normally an exclusive house for M-G-M product, B. and K. has opened "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" there.

To Screen Paramount 3rd Block April 5-6

Charles M. Reagan, Paramount vice-president in charge of distribution, yesterday announced that the company's fifth block will be trade-shown in all exchange centers, April 5-6.

"Scared Stiff" will replace "One Exciting Night," originally announced for the fifth block. This and the Hal Wallis film, "The Affairs of Susan" will be shown April 5. "A Medal for Benny" and "Murder, He Says" will be shown April 6.

All screenings will be at the Paramount exchanges, except in Los Angeles, where the Ambassador Theatre will be used, and in Albany and New York, where they will be at 20th Century-Fox exchanges.

Two Are Chartered

ALBANY, March 19. — Chester Productions, Inc., has been incorporated to conduct a motion picture business in New York. Incorporators are: Helene Kersavage, Jessie Feitelson and Rose G. Kantor; attorney is Sol A. Rosenblatt, all of New York.

Alpha Colorfilm Corp. also has been incorporated. Incorporators are: Hermann and Anne Graen, and Nicholas Lefkowitz.

Name Three to Issue Stock to Independents

(*Continued from page* 1)

tribute through reductions of their over-all quotas for the second quarter and halving of their credits from the Army for release prints furnished for service men. WPB, however, will repay the smaller credit for Army prints on a current, instead of a 90-day basis as heretofore.

The bank will take care of the raw stock requirements of new producers, if they can qualify, as well as established ones. In addition, all commercial users of raw stock, if they meet qualifications, can draw from the bank. Basic qualification is that the producer or raw stock user was established in business prior to the effective date of the George Act, Jan. 1, 1945. These will be entitled to 100 per cent of their 1941 stock consumption, or an average of their consumption over their periods of activity.

Take Quota Along

Independent producers will be at liberty to take their quotas with them when they change from one distributing company to another. Presumably, also, the bank will be authorized to make stock available to foreign producers who qualify and whose pictures are slated for distribution in this market.

"This over-all quota represents the amount of film normally received by independent producers, plus a small additional amount needed to provide flexibility of operation for small independent producers, WPB explained. "The individual quotas of the distributors from whom the independent producers formerly received film will be reduced to the extent that they supplied film to independent producers."

"This proposal is in line with the WPB policy of distributing film in the public interest and in an orderly manner," officials said.

Skouras Theatres in Clearance Appeal

Skouras Theatres Corp., operating the Granada Theatre, Corona, L. I., has appealed the decision of the New York Arbitration Tribunal in eliminating the seven-day clearance held by the Granada over the Fair Theatre, Jackson Heights, operated by the Fair Operating Corp., the American Arbitration Association reports here.

The arbitrator's decision also ordered maximum clearance to the Granada over the Polk, operated by Jupe Amusement Co., by RKO, Paramount, Loew's and Warners, to be one day.

Drop Clearance Charge

Sidney Pink and Joseph Moritz, operating the Century Theatre, Los Angeles, have withdrawn a clearance complaint in the Los Angeles tribunal against the five consenting companies, by general stipulation, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

Only 4 Start, As Production Drops to 31

HOLLYWOOD, March 19.—Warner Brothers and Republic were the only strike-affected studios to start new pictures; the shooting index dropped from 37 to 31, as four films were started, and nine went to cutting rooms. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Finished: "Rhythm Roundup."

Shooting: "Over 21," "Kiss and Tell" (Siegel).

M-G-M

Shooting: "They Were Expendable," "Dangerous Partners," "Early to Wed," "Yolanda and the Thief," "The Harvey Girls."

Monogram

Finished: "Divorce."

Shooting: "Here Comes Trouble."

Paramount

Finished: "Masquerade in Mexico."

Shooting: "Our Hearts Were Growing Up," "The Well Groomed Bride," "You Came Along" (Hal Wallis). ("The Blue Dahlia," listed as started last week, was postponed to March 26.)

PRC

Finished: "Why Girls Leave Home" (Sam Sax).

RKO Radio

Shooting: "George White's Scandals of 1945," "The Amorous Ghost" (formerly "Man Alive"), "The Bells of St. Mary's" (Rainbow Productions).

Republic

Finished: "Trail of Kit Carson," "The Amazing Mr. M."

Started: "Man from Oklahoma," with Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, George (Gabby) Hayes, Sons of the Pioneers; "Tiger Woman," with Adele Mara and Kane Richmond; "Colorado Pioneers," with Bill Elliott, Alice Fleming and Bobby Blake.

20th Century-Fox

Finished: "Ten Little Indians" (Popular Pictures).

Shooting: "Within These Walls," "Dragonwyck," "Junior Miss," "The Dolly Sisters," "State Fair."

United Artists

Shooting: "Captain Kidd" (Bogeaus); "Young Widow" (Stromberg); "Duel in the Sun" (Vanguard).

Universal

Finished: "Pillow of Death," "Men in Her Diary."

Shooting: "Serenade for Murder," "Lady on a Train," "A Night in Paradise."

Warners

Started: "The Time, the Place and the Girl," with Dennis Morgan, Jack Carson, Jane Wyman.

Shooting: "Stolen Life," "Shadow of a Woman."

Two Massachusetts Fires

BOSTON, March 19.—Two theatre fires, with damages of approximately $50,000, have been reported. The Uptown Theatre, Lynn, suffered a loss of $25,000; the house was emptied in time to prevent any injuries. In Manchester, the State also had a $25,000 loss when fire from an adjoining store spread to portions of the theatre.

Strike Seen as Endurance Contest in Second Week

(Continued from page 1)

to launch new pictures for which sets were not prepared before the walkout. Striking Set Decorators Local 1421, together with the painters' and carpenters' unions, point out that no IATSE or other union is able to supply workmen eligible and competent to build sets.

Herbert Sorrell, president of the Conference of Studio Unions, tonight said: "The lines now are clearly drawn," and reiterated his confidence that the strike will be won. IATSE vice-president Carl Cooper reiterated President Richard Walsh's assurance that he has no present intention nor reason to call out the projectionists, declaring, "Production is going forward and conditions are good. We are urging the striking unions to go back to work." Asked whether Walsh had offered IATSE charters to CSU locals on strike, Cooper said "No."

No Predictions

Neither the producers, Sorrell nor Cooper would venture a prediction on when the strike will end. Reports that George W. Zinke, assistant disputes director of the War Labor Board, was undertaking to arrange a three-sided conference with a view to ending the strike proved groundless. The Screen Writers Guild and Screen Directors Guild, who joined last week in urging all parties to sit down together around a conference table, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY, "Nobody responded to our suggestion."

Sorrell Welcomes Defections

HOLLYWOOD, March 19.—Although there was a further defection in the studio walkout, three unions voting to return to work today, reducting the number on strike from 14 to 11, Herbert Sorrell, president of the Conference of Studio Unions, told an all-union mass meeting that these actions were not unexpected and their effect will be to "strengthen rather than weaken our cause."

The Screen Publicists Guild, voting to return to their posts after receipt of a warning telegram from producers, simultaneously adopted a resolution declaring the organization "reiterates its conviction that producers have flagrantly violated the wartime pledge of employers to settle disputes expeditiously and to abide by War Labor Board arbitration."

SOEG Disregards Advice

The Screen Office Employees Guild, facing injunction proceedings filed in Superior Court by the producers, disregarded the pro-strike advice of its president and business manager in voting to return; the latter officers publicly apologized for their members' action.

Screen Story Analysts, expecting producers to file a petition for an injunction, as in the case of the SEOG, voted to return, but promised their continuing support of the Screen Set Decorators' position.

The Screen Actors Guild, following a membership meeting at which officers counselled on a vote against observing picket lines, mailed ballots, returnable Thursday midnight, citing organization by-laws requiring a 75 per cent majority vote to legalize action in support of a strike.

Mayor Fletcher Bowron entered the picture by wiring the War Labor Board urging it to use all of its resources to stop the strike.

Arthur to Supreme Court on Appeal

(Continued from page 1)

Caffey, in New York Federal Court.

Application of St. Louis Amusement was denied by Judge Henry W. Goddard last December. In its assignment of errors, the St. Louis Co. declared Judge Goddard erred in refusing to grant the intervention application and in exercising his discretion. It is contended that since the consent decree under which the companies had been operating since 1940 had expired Nov. 20, 1943, all decisions of the American Arbitration Association since then are null and void. Arthur's company is seeking, through intervention, to set aside all AAA decisions as an alleged violation of the Fourth Amendment, in that it has allegedly deprived the St. Louis company of its rights without due process of law.

WFEA to Join CBS

Radio station WFEA, Manchester, N. H., will become an affiliate of CBS on June 15, replacing WLAW, Lawrence, Mass. WFEA will join as a supplementary station.

Bateman Moves to L. A.

LOS ANGELES, March 19.—Francis A. Bateman, Republic's Western district sales manager, has transferred his headquarters to the branch office here from the company's North Hollywood studios.

Hearings on Arthur Dismissal in April

ST. LOUIS, March 19.—U. S. District Judge Richard M. Duncan, in whose court the injunction and damage suit filed by Harry Arthur and the St. Louis Amusement Co. against the American Arbitration Association and distributors is pending, has returned from Washington and set down for hearing during the first week in April the motions to dismiss the suit filed by the defendants.

Making Progress in 'Lab' Help Pact Talks

Some progress is now being made in contract negotiations between IATSE Motion Picture Laboratory Technicians Local No. 702 and representatives of 20 film processing laboratories here. About 1,800 workers are involved.

Union and laboratory representatives are studying existing job classifications with an idea of establishing additional classifications which would provide wage increases.

Fire at Middletown, O.

MIDDLETOWN, Ohio, March 19.—A fire at the State Theatre recently resulted in $2,000 damage with five rows of seats and the ticket office destroyed and the front of the building damaged, according to George Turlukis, manager.

Labor-Torn Mexico Resumes Producing

MEXICO CITY, March 19.—Mexican production, suspended 29 days because of a labor conflict, is being resumed following the Labor Ministry's recognition of a new union composed of six sections that broke away from the pioneer National Cinematographic Industry Workers.

The new accord was held up for about a week when four of the units objected to an alleged attempt at domination by the other two. The latter included actors headed by Cantinflas (Mario Moreno), comedian, whom Fidel Velazquez, chief of the Confederation of Mexican Labor, accused of using the players as a 'beachhead' to dictate production procedure. Moreno asserted that he sought merely to protect the actors from being forced into a 'back seat' by the aggression of other labor groups.

On account of the labor complications, as well as an acute raw stock shortage, producers Mario del Rio and Jesus Gil, Jr., have been planning to make pictures in Venezuela, and it was said that more might follow in a shift to other parts of Latin America.

See State Theatre Code Being Delayed

(Continued from page 1)

and other assembly places to be built in the postwar, it is understood that details which have been set are only tentative. Still to be decided are requirements for exits, including fire escapes, as well as standards for theatre curtains. Projection booth requirements for new structures have been set, minimums being booths of 10 feet depth by eight feet high and that not less than 30 inches clearance be provided between each projection machine and 30 inches in the rear of each effects machine.

Once requirements for new structures are set, possibly at the next meeting of the committee, on March 30, a review of all provisions for new construction will be started, with the indication being that it will be several months before the code is ready for public hearings which the Labor Department will hold. The committee plans to hold field trips in connection with a review of provisions already set.

As previously reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, the new code will be strictly enforced by legislation which was recently introduced in Albany, known as the Condon building-code bill. While industry representatives, including Henry Anderson, Paramount; Martin J. Tracey, Century Circuit; Theodore Junge, alternate for Harry Moskowitz of Loew's, and Glen H. Humphrey of IATSE projectionists Local No. 337, have not opposed setting of strict requirements for new construction, it is understood that any attempt to drastically alter provisions for existing construction will face stern opposition if the new provisions require extensive alterations in existing theatres.

Station WNEX to Mutual

Radio station WNEX, Macon, Ga., will become a full time affiliate of Mutual Broadcasting on April 15.

To Paramount th

BEST ORIGINAL SONG
"SWINGING ON A STAR"
JAMES VAN HEUSEN
& JOHNNY BURKE

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR
IN A SUPPORTING ROLE
BARRY FITZGERALD

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR
BING CROSBY

BEST MOTION PICTURE OF THE YEAR
"GOING MY WAY"

orld's most honored film company

PARAMOUNT AGAIN HAS
BEST 1-REEL SHORT SUBJECT
PRODUCED BY JERRY FAIRBANKS

BEST WRITTEN SCREENPLAY
FRANK BUTLER & FRANK CAVETT

BEST ACHIEVEMENT IN DIRECTING
BEST ORIGINAL MOTION
PICTURE STORY
LEO McCAREY
A Double Winner—First Time
in 17 years of Academy Awards!

THE GREATEST AWARDS OF ALL FROM THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

All our thanks to Bing Crosby, Leo McCarey, Barry Fitzgerald, Frank Butler, Frank Cavett, Jimmy Van Heusen, Johnny Burke and Jerry Fairbanks for their work which make Paramount Pictures the Best Shows in Town

Only 5% Increase: Owners to Bowles

Cleveland, March 19.—Prices in theatres in Greater Cleveland have not advanced more than five per cent in three years, a survey reveals, this boost failing to cover advances in operating costs. Theatre owners in many instances are taking a one cent loss on each admission.

When the average neighborhood price was 30 cents and Federal tax was three cents, the owner netted 30 cents. Now, at 35 cents, the Federal tax is six cents and the net is 29 cents. The figures were cited as refuting OPA Administrator Chester Bowles' statement that admissions have gone up 38 per cent since Pearl Harbor.

Blue Appoints Two to Head Expansion Plan

Frank Marx has been made director of general engineering and George Milne, director of technical operations in the Blue Network's post-war expansion plans, which involve intensive building.

Mark Woods, president of the Blue web of American Broadcasting Co., said in announcing the new appointments that plans are underway to erect new buildings in New York and Hollywood and new studios in Chicago. Equipment will be installed for every phase of broadcasting, including television and frequency modulation.

MPTOA Hits OPA Move For Admission Ceilings

Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA president, in a bulletin released to members yesterday, charged that freedom of the screen is threatened by Government price control. "The Congress specifically exempted motion pictures from price control when the law was first enacted in 1940, to protect freedom of speech and because of the great difficulty of applying price controls to such an intangible commodity. Maybe also they had in mind the fact that the same film shows at all sorts of prices, and the public can see them at some time or other at just about any price it wants to pay, and that the supply of admissions is unlimited and unrationed. While it might never be used, price control on films could easily place the screen under the thumb of the Government for any propaganda or pressure use it saw fit. The penalty for resistance could then be economic strangulation and eventual destruction," the bulletin states.

The bulletin charges "the decisions of the Office of Price Administration would be arbitrary, without hearings and that the Government must be made to realize that people don't have to go to the films, while they do have to eat. They can manage to go to a different theatre in great numbers when the price is too high. The penalty for overcharging in our business is bankruptcy."

Chester Bowles, OPA Price Administrator, is accused of having given the industry a "black eye" by "reckless and irresponsible statements getting the widest publicity and having branded all as profiteers and gyp artists," by stating that admission prices are up 38 per cent since June, 1941, and that a gross of $1,500,000,000 was made last year. Kuykendall says that nobody really knows how much admission prices have risen since 1941, for at that time all houses under 20 cents were tax-free and no data was collected from all theatres. It was pointed out that the tax last year on all amusements, including films, was just over $300,000,000, proving the film industry did not gross what Bowles claims, unless, Kuykendall said, a lot of theatres are not paying Federal tax on admissions.

The bulletin concludes with the statement that "it is a sad commentary on the industry that we know so little about our own business and are so poorly organized to defend it that once again we get kicked around in Washington and get a dose of destructive publicity that tears down our badly needed public goodwill unnecessarily."

Cronland in New Post

OMAHA, March 19.—Roy Cronland, who came here from Denver, has been added to the Paramount sales staff and will cover Western Nebraska territory, branch manager Jesse McBride announces.

Bowles Planning Price Control Plea

(*Continued from page* 1)

the cost of theatre admissions has been inflationarily increased during the war. The agents have been busy going over the files of other agencies interested in exhibition, and are understood to have developed many individual cases of increases running up to 100 per cent in "downtown" theatres of some cities.

The matter is being closely watched by both film interests and Government agencies alike, but it is not believed any move to combat Bowles' proposal will be made unless the Committee changes the position it adopted last week.

Specifically exempted now from any form of price regulations, motion picture control could be exerted only under an amendment to the Price Control Act. The opportunity to suggest the amendment was afforded by legislation now before the Committee to extend the life of the act, now due to expire June 30.

Loew Toronto Dividend

TORONTO, March 19.—Following a similar payment late in 1944, Marcus Loew's Theatres, Ltd., operating the two Loew houses here, has declared a $1 dividend on common shares, payable March 31. The regular one and three-quarter per cent dividend on the seven per cent preference shares for the current quarter has also been declared, to be paid on the same date. For 15 years there had been no common dividend until last Fall.

Thanks to

THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

for the Award

and Thanks to

BING CROSBY

for making

"Swinging on a Star"

THE BEST ORIGINAL SONG OF THE YEAR

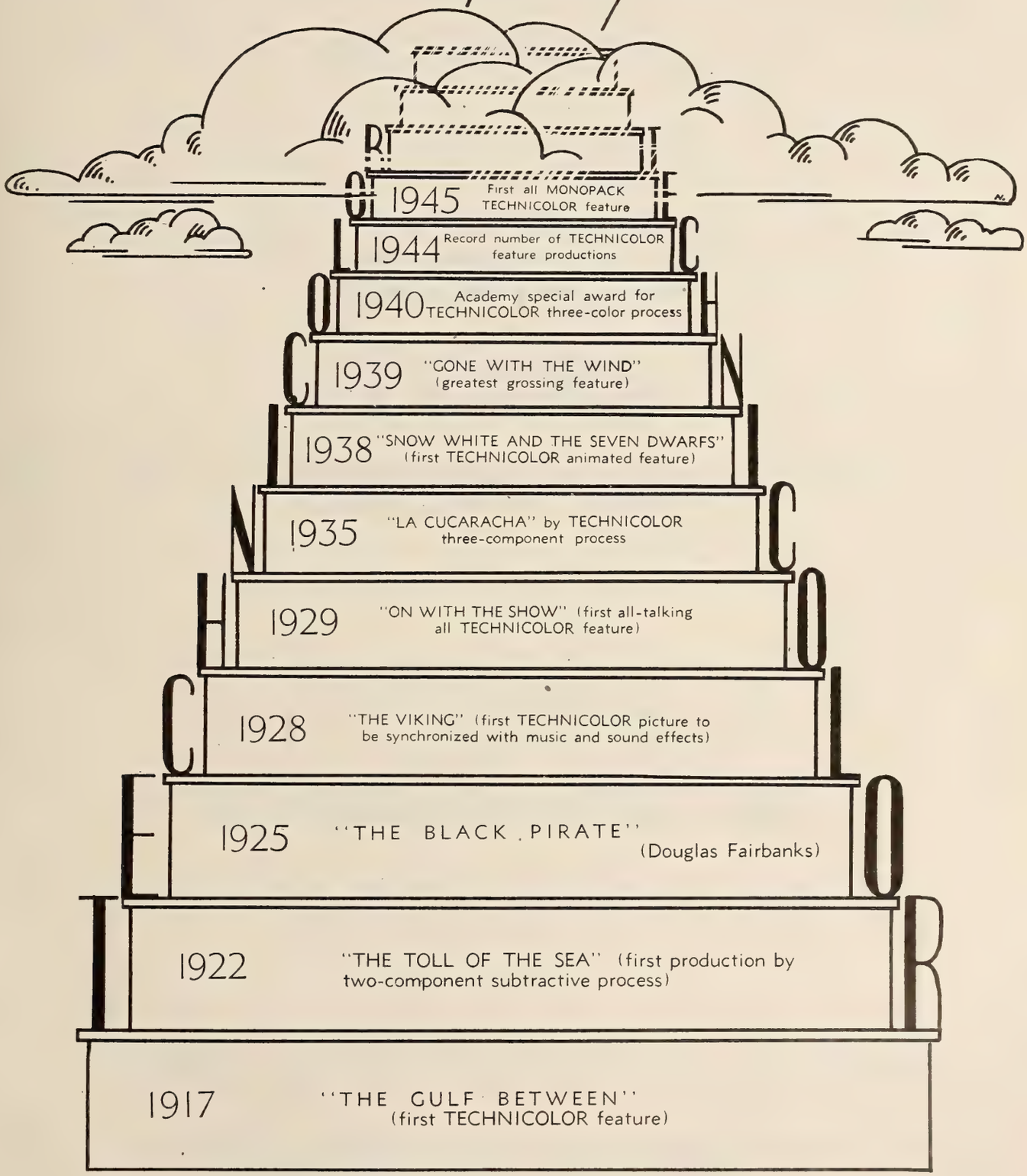
Lyric by Johnny Burke and Music by Jimmy Van Heusen

Songs from
The International Pictures Inc.
"THE BELLE OF THE YUKON"
SLEIGHRIDE IN JULY
LIKE SOMEONE IN LOVE
EV'RY GIRL IS DIFF'RENT
BELLE OF THE YUKON

BURKE AND VANHEUSEN
Music Publishers
1619 BROADWAY
New York 19, N. Y.

Songs from
The Bing Crosby Production
"THE GREAT JOHN L"
A FRIEND OF YOURS
HE WAS A PERFECT GENTLEMAN

ACHIEVEMENT
Through the Years



TECHNICOLOR MOTION PICTURE CORPORATION

Herbert T. Kalmus, President and General Manager

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to all of the

ACADEMY
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EASTMAN FILM
BRULATOUR SERVICE

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FORT LEE ▪ CHICAGO ▪ HOLLYWOOD

CONGRATULATIONS

to

E. H. Hansen

and the Sound Department of

20th Century-Fox

for their achievements in Sound Recording

as exemplified in

*Wilson**

for which they have received

the Academy Sound Award

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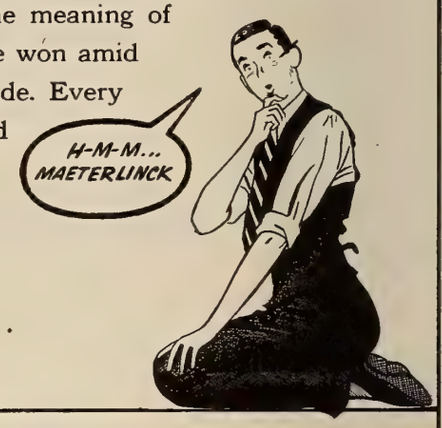
233 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

ADMAN

This Is My America

by Maurice Maeterlinck

. . . When they return home, the heroes will recall that wings are needed not for our bodies, but for our souls. They will understand the meaning of this war which they have won amid acclamations and gratitude. Every one of them has learned that his country is an inn on the border of the eternal roads of the ideal. The heroes' eyes have been opened. . . .



Mady Soyka

HITLER'S FAVORITE WOMAN SPY

by Princess Amelie Karapow

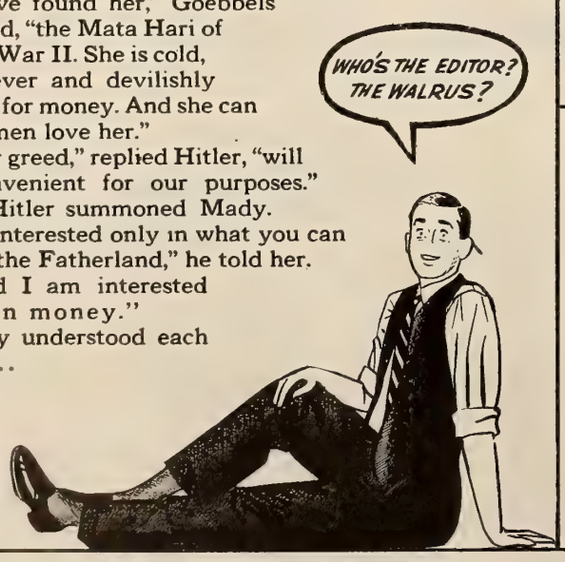
. . . "I've found her," Goebbels reported, "the Mata Hari of World War II. She is cold, but clever and devilishly greedy for money. And she can make men love her."

"Her greed," replied Hitler, "will be convenient for our purposes."

So Hitler summoned Mady. "I am interested only in what you can do for the Fatherland," he told her.

"And I am interested only in money."

They understood each other . . .



MY VALENTINE
by Gladys Martin

Some Valentines are fragile things
With frilly lace where Cupid sings
And doves fly out on satin wings.

My Valentine is a silver star,
A banner flung in lands afar
To save and keep the dreams that are.

My Valentine is a lonely lad
Stained with dust and khaki clad,
Tall and brave as Galahad.

"I . . . Never Walk Again?"

by Nana Gollner
Prima Ballerina, Ballet Theatre

. . . "For infantile can and will be conquered — especially now when we're all fighting it together. This is a day of miracles! Who should know it better than I? At four I had infantile paralysis." . . .

IN WONDER LAND

I'm That Country Parson's Wife

by Mrs. A. Ritchie Low

...What happens here in our little church in Johnson, Vermont? A Catholic priest spoke in our Protestant church, told us how he had preached the word of God on other continents. A Jewish rabbi brought the ark, scroll and Talmud Torah of his faith, spoke humbly, beautifully, and convincingly. A Mormon youth from Utah spoke; a Japanese-American who pleaded for a chance to prove his loyalty to his birthland, a Chinese statesman, a Hawaiian ...

Do you really *know* True Confessions? The sample here represents the *character* of True Confessions. The motto on the cover calls it "Your Magazine for a Better Life." It is. The bigness in every issue *shouldn't* be news to you.

TRUE CONFESSIONS

Bought at newsstands by 2,000,000 women a month for the living service it gives.

Fawcett Publications, Inc., 1501 Broadway, New York 18, N. Y.
World's Largest Publishers of Monthly Magazines

Studio, 'Lab' Set by Cine-Television

Cine-Television Studios, Inc., has announced the completion of a studio and laboratories for television program experiments, through Fred H. Fidler, president.

Yasha Frank has been named vice-president in charge of production and Robert A. Jenkins, vice-president and general manager with V. Henry Rothschild as secretary. The staff has been increased to 20. Other executives include Fred Waller, consultant on technical and production matters, including photographic and electronic engineering, and Doris LeRoy, consultant in the educational film field. Both Miss LeRoy and Waller are also directors of the company.

Fidler declared that the company's distribution division, Motion Picture Networks, is expanding its activity in the screen advertising field, and in non-theatrical distribution of longer sponsored films.

Bugie Named Rep. Manager in Dallas

DALLAS, March 19.—William F. Bugie has been appointed Republic branch manager in Dallas, it has been announced here.

Bugie was formerly salesman in Dallas and was promoted to his new post following the appointment of N. J. Colquhoun, former branch manager, as Southwestern district sales manager.

M-G-M

TRADE SHOW

NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY TERRITORIES ONLY

"THE CLOCK"

Wednesday, March 21st

10:30 A. M. — ALSO 2:30 P. M.

RKO SCREEN ROOM

630 NINTH AVE.

INSTEAD OF

M-G-M SCREEN ROOM

AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

Reviews

"Tarzan and the Amazons"

(RKO Radio)

PACKED with action and thrills, "Tarzan and the Amazons" is one of the best of the Tarzan series, not only in its original story content, but because of an excellent supporting cast, able direction and photography, all of which make the film good box office.

Tarzan and his son are eagerly awaiting the return of the jungle lord's wife, Jane, from England. As the apeman heads downstream to meet his wife, he pauses to rescue an Amazon from the clutches of a black panther, returning the girl to her home beyond the mountains. Tarzan's wife arrives accompanied by a group of scientists who desire to obtain information concerning the Amazons, which is refused by Tarzan. The apeman's son, however, leads the party to the lost city of the Amazons where the party repays good treatment with rifle fire and looting. The warlike women, although their losses are heavy, kill all but two of the visitors and capture Tarzan's son, who is doomed to die. Tarzan arrives in the nick o' time, for the rescue, after killing the two scientists who had escaped, and returning the stolen loot.

The jungle scenes, with lions, leopards, monkeys and elephants, are highly realistic, and the excellent photography of the lost city of the Amazons makes an incredibly beautiful picture. Johnny Weissmuller in this one has much more ease as Tarzan, making him a powerful and thoroughly sympathetic character, while Johnny Sheffield, as Tarzan's son, is also entirely credible. Brenda Joyce is Jane, wife of Tarzan, and she plays her part with simplicity and grace.

Henry Stephenson, as the leader of the scientists, is excellent in support, and so is Maria Ouspenskaya as the Amazon Queen. Barton MacLane makes a strong and evil villain. Others of the fine supporting cast are: Don Douglas, J. M. Kerrigan, Shirley O'Hara and Steven Geray.

Sol Lesser, who recently signed a 20-year producing deal for the Tarzan characters, was in charge of production and Kurt Neumann produced at a thrill-a-minute clip. The screen play, by Hans Jacoby and Marjorie L. Pfaelzer, from the characters by Edgar Rice Burroughs, is tense and tight, and Archie Stout has performed a magnificent job of photography.

Running time, 76 minutes. General classification. Release date not set.

EDWARD SMITH

"The House of Fear"

(Universal)

BASIL RATHBONE, again playing that master of deductive reasoning, Sherlock Holmes, is not called upon to display his full powers in this direction in "The House of Fear," latest of the superior series by Universal, because a superfluity of clues and suspects baffles even this 'human bloodhound'; nevertheless, it emerges as another interesting, and at times exciting, detective film.

When individual members of a club known as 'The Good Comrades,' who gather at the dreary Scottish mansion owned by Aubrey Mather, meet their deaths, each one foreshadowed by delivery of a letter containing orange pits, the master is called in on the case with Dr. Watson. As the murders, for such it seems they are, proceed in a veritable procession, Rathbone is powerless to prevent them. When only Mather remains alive, Scotland Yard Inspector Dennis Hoey arrests him as the murderer, but Rathbone, scornful of the obvious, finds an old smuggler's tunnel which leads him to the 'murdered victims,' all very much alive. It seems that each of the band has had a large insurance policy placed on his life, the proceeds of which they had caused to be diligently collected.

Rathbone delivers his usual urbane performance as the master detective; Nigel Bruce lends solid support, and a group of able character actors also register creditably. Roy William Neill produced and directed, stressing mystery and suspense, while Roy Chansler did the screenplay from a Conan Doyle story.

Running time, 69 minutes. General classification. Release date, March 16.

CHARLES RYWECK

"Rough Ridin' Justice"

(Columbia)

Hollywood, March 19

THE latest Charles Starrett starrer is somewhat slower than the usual Western, and Dub Taylor, unfortunately, is not permitted sufficient scope for his comedy talents. Betty Jane Graham is seen briefly in a small part, and Jimmy Wakely adds interest with his songs.

Elizabeth Beecher's screenplay hews to the usual line. At its opening, Starrett is the leader of a gang of rustlers who have been pillaging shipments of the local ranchers' association. Offered a better-paying occupation by the ranchers as escort for the shipments, he goes over to the side of the law, and thereafter expends in its behalf as much effort as he previously spent in contravening it.

Jack Fier produced, and Derwin Abrahams directed. The supporting cast includes Wheeler Oakman, Jack Ingram, Forrest Taylor, Jack Rockwell, Edmund Cobb, Dan White and Robert Kortman.

Running time, 56 minutes. General classification. Release date, March 15.

THALIA BELL

Drive-In for Omaha

OMAHA, March 19. — Mid-West Drive-In Theatres, Inc., has announced plans for a new $75,000 theatre.

1,500 Seater for Publix

CHICAGO, March 19.—Publix-Great States will construct a 1,500 seat theatre 'Esplanade' in La Salle.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, March 19

"DREAMS of Love," biographical musical-romance based on the life and music of Franz Liszt, will be produced by PRC from an original play by Patrick O'Sullivan. . . . Irving Yordan, brother of playwright Phil Yordan, has joined the story department of King Brothers, Monogram producers. . . . Robert Riley Crutcher has been signed by Sol Lesser to write the screenplay for "Paris Canteen."

•

Beverly Wills, 11-year-old daughter of Joan Davis, will portray her mother as a child in "George White's Scandals of 1945," now in work at RKO. . . . M-G-M has purchased "Great Temptation," based on the novel "Carl and Anna," by Leonard Frank. Arthur Hornblow will produce; Greer Garson is to be starred. Casey Robinson is currently writing the screenplay.

•

Tom Powers has been selected for an important role in the forthcoming Paramount production, "The Blue Dahlia," which will star Alan Ladd, Veronica Lake and William Bendix. . . . Boris Karloff has been signed to a new three-picture deal by Universal. His next appearance will be in "The House of Dracula." . . . Christy Cabanne will direct "Main Street Girl" for Monogram.

•

Universal has purchased "She Meant No Harm," by Donald Henderson Clarke. . . . Virginia Farmer has been added to the cast of "Our Hearts Were Growing Up," at Paramount. . . . Dick Long, 17-year-old Hollywood high school boy, has been given a long-term contract by International Pictures. . . . A budget of $1,200,000 has been set up for "Whistle Stop," which Seymour Nebenzal will produce for United Artists.

•

The King Brothers are borrowing Lawrence Tierney from RKO Radio to star in "Payment Due," original psychological mystery by John Faxon, which the brothers will produce for Monogram release. . . . Jules Levey is borrowing Barbara Britton from Paramount for a top role in his next production for United Artists, tentatively titled "The Homesteaders."

•

Martha Sleeper, William Gargan and Joan Carrol have been chosen for featured roles in "The Bells of St. Mary's," first Rainbow Production, which will be released through RKO.

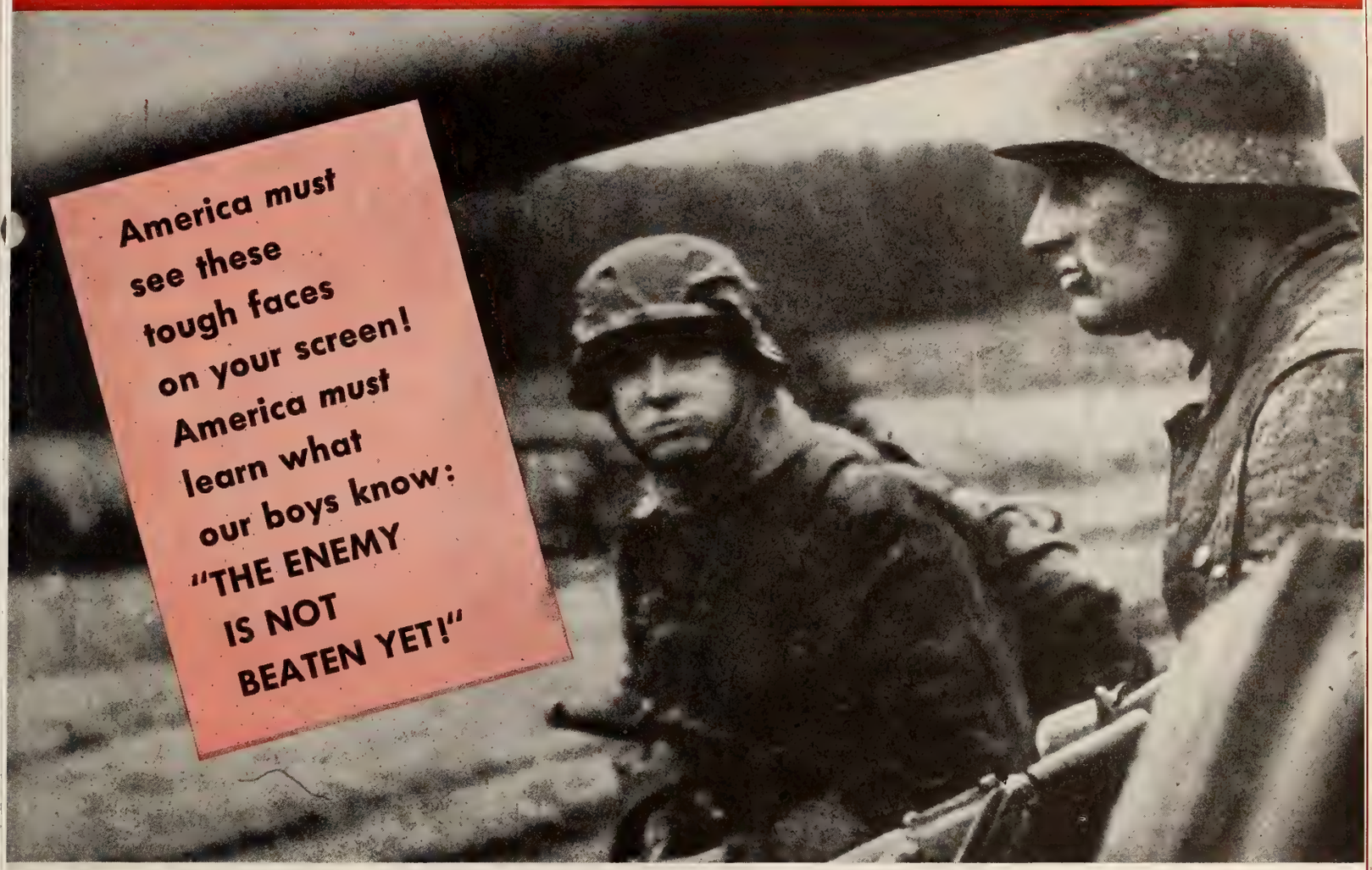
•

'Skinnay' Ennis has been signed for a featured role in "Radio Stars on Parade," which Leslie Goodwins will direct and Ben Stoloff will produce for RKO. . . . Universal has exercised its option on Ray Taylor, who directs serials for that studio. . . . William Wilder is working with writers Ann Wigton and Louis Herman on the script of "Alias Myself," recently purchased by Republic.

•

Bandleaders Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey will be starred in a musical for which Charles R. Rogers has set up a budget of $2,000,000. The most popular tunes to figure in the careers of the brothers will be spotted throughout the production.

THIS IS CAPTURED GERMAN FILM!



THE WAR DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

"THE ENEMY STRIKES"

Ten minutes of screentime that will influence our lifetime! A vital warning to STOP complacency! America once again relaxes. This message tells dramatically how our dreams were shattered last December by the tragedy of the Battle of the Bulge. Newly captured German films are seen for the first time together with amazing, thrilling footage to grip audiences and tell them "It's not over yet!" For the sake of our own dear ones on the battle line you MUST do your part to keep the home-front fighting too by showing "THE ENEMY STRIKES" now!

Produced by the Army Pictorial Service, Signal Corps

AVAILABLE FREE AT ALL UNIVERSAL PICTURES EXCHANGES

Sponsored by War Activities Committee of Motion Picture Industry, 1501 Broadway, N.Y.C.

Continuing a tradition:

MISS BERGMAN IS A SELZNICK STAR

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 55 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1945 | TEN CENTS

20th-Fox Will File for Two Video Outlets

To Seek Permits for N. Y. And Los Angeles Stations

Twentieth Century-Fox will file applications with the Federal Communications Commission for permission to construct experimental television stations in New York and Los Angeles, it is learned here, making it the fourth of the five distributing companies with affiliated theatres to seek facilities to participate in post-war telecasting.

The company already has a financial interest in Scophony Corp. of America through General Precision Equipment and recently became an associate member of Television Broadcasters Association.

Paramount, which has a substantial interest in DuMont Television, also a financial interest in Scophony, recently filed applications with the FCC for

(*Continued on page* 5)

U. S. Film Workers Join Studio Strike

HOLLYWOOD, March 20.—A basis on which the Government could intervene in the studio strike here appeared developing today when Conference of Studio Unions craftsmen working on Government films in struck studios, under an exemption specified in the original strike order, walked out declaring the managements had ordered them to work on commercial pictures and had assigned "strikebreakers" to work alongside them on Government pictures. "Strikebreaker" is a term applied by CSU to both workers without union affiliation and to IATSE members assigned to other than their own stipulated work.

In a statement issued after a spe-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Independents Decry New Checking Unit

Criticism of the new distributor checking organization, Confidential Reports, Inc., was voiced yesterday by national Allied States, Allied of New Jersey and the Indignant Exhibitors Forum, the latter comprising a committee of the Greater Cincinnati Independent Exhibitors Ass'n.

A current national Allied bulletin

(*Continued on page* 10)

RKO in Deal With French

RKO Radio and Pathe Cinema Consortium of France have formed a new production-distribution company for a three-fold purpose: joint production in France for the world market, distribution of RKO films in France and the French colonies, and distribution of French films in foreign markets, Phil Reisman, RKO Radio vice-president in charge of foreign sales, announced here yesterday. Reisman, returned from five weeks in France and England, said that the new company will be called Pathe-RKO in France, headed by Marcel Gentel, RKO Radio's French manager, and RKO-Pathe outside of that country.

Reisman revealed that the French are anxious for the U. S. industry to help them secure distribution here of their product, which, he said, they are entitled to, since they have absorbed our pictures with relatively few of theirs being handled here. The

(*Continued on page* 5)

UA May Reveal Producer Pacts

The United Artists board of directors, meeting here this week, discussed a distribution deal for two pictures a year from Edward Golden Productions, and an announcement may be forthcoming today on the deal's consummation. RKO Radio currently distributes Golden product.

The board meeting, during which the raw stock situation bulked large in the discussion, also touched upon contracts of other producers, renewals of which may also be announced today.

15,484 Theatres in Red Cross Drive

More theatres are joining the industry's 1945 Red Cross War Fund Week, this week, with a total of 15,484 out of a possible 16,443 pledged. Those joining late will extend their respective drives to the same number of days as the ones starting on schedule, last Monday.

Three more areas have joined the 100 per cent group: New Orleans, 521 theatres; Omaha, 365; Seattle, 305 theatres. There are 15 areas in the 100 per cent class and six with over 99 per cent.

Top Red Cross Fund Goal, Asks President

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Thousands of theatres throughout the country tonight interrupted their programs to carry a special appeal by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on behalf of the 1945 Red Cross War Fund which was broadcast over the four major networks and independent radio stations at nine P. M. (EWT), especially for theatres.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President Roosevelt called upon Americans to oversubscribe the $200,000,000 set for the 1945 War Fund. "There was a time when you and I gave to the Red Cross largely in a feeling of aid to others," the President said. "That was giving in humanity and in decency. This year we give in necessity—necessity

(*Continued on page* 5)

"A Royal Scandal"

[*20th Century-Fox*]

BRILLIANTLY produced by Ernst Lubitsch to rank among his best screen achievements, "A Royal Scandal" is a smart, sophisticated and hilarious farce which should score easily as one of the outstanding comedies of the year, both entertainment-wise and at the box office.

Orchids for this scintillating production go not only to Lubitsch, who has been identified with this type of attraction for many years, but also to Otto Preminger for his spritely direction; to the exceptionally fine cast, headed by Tallulah Bankhead, Charles Coburn, Anne Baxter and William Eythe and featuring Vincent Price, Mischa Auer, Sig Ruman, Vladimir Sokoloff and Mikhail Rasumny, all for sparkling performances; and to the clever dialogue and the lusty and rollicking situations in a splendid screen play, devised by Edwin Justus Mayer. All are perfectly synchronized in this top-notch Lubitsch film.

History discloses that the Court of Catherine the Great, 'Mother of All the Russias,' was rocked by scandal and intrigue. Happily and

(*Continued on page* 9)

Rent Bill Up Today Would Lift Ceiling

Only Retroactive Date Remains to Be Set in N.Y.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 20.—A rent bill, introduced in the Assembly by Irwin Steingut, and in the Senate by Senator DiCostanzo, has been reported out of committee here and generally agreed upon as the new rent law for New York State, with a debate tomorrow due on only one phase, namely, whether the law shall be retroactive to June, 1944, or 1943.

Motion picture theatres are specifically exempt from this bill which defines "business space" as a place other than places of public assembly and specifically declares that a theatre is a place of assembly. As a result, theatres will be excluded from ceilings on building rentals and at the termination of any lease, a landlord can charge any sum he deems fit on a new lease. Representative Steingut desires the

(*Continued on page* 8)

Roosevelt Backing Byrnes on Curfew

WASHINGTON, March 20.—President Roosevelt today told a news conference that War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes had his full support in the latter's plea for observance nationally of the midnight curfew, which was 'relaxed' this week by Mayor LaGuardia of New York.

The President pointed out that the appeal made by Byrnes yesterday carried his approval but, when asked whether he proposed to intervene in the New York situation, shrugged his shoulders and asked what he could do. A reporter raised the question of penalties, but the President said he had

(*Continued on page* 8)

Discrimination Bills Up in Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA, March 20.—Joint House - Senate Committee hearings will be held in Harrisburg on March 27 to determine which of four pending fair employment-practice bills—all of interest to the film industry—will be given the green light in the state legislature. Three anti-discrimination measures have been introduced in the

(*Continued on page* 8)

Personal Mention

BARNEY BALABAN, Paramount president, is scheduled to leave the Coast for New York at the weekend.

•

JOSEPH VARBALOW, Camden independent circuit head, will represent Camden theatres on a city advisory committee to help enforce the amusement curfew order there.

•

DAVID LEVINGER, Western Electric vice-president and director, and manager of its Hawthorne Works in Chicago, will celebrate his 35th year with the company today.

•

CARLISLE JONES, of the Warner studio publicity staff, became a grandfather for the second time Sunday, when a girl was born to his daughter, MRS. S. A. MCMAHAN.

•

J. LESTER STALLMAN, manager of the Astor, Reading, Pa., has again been named chairman of the Reading-Berks theatremen's division in the Seventh War Loan.

•

ROY HAINES, Warner Western and Southern sales manager, will stop off in Kansas City today en route to Los Angeles.

•

TOM FOSTER, National Screen Service home office representative, is in Salt Lake City for several weeks.

•

NAT LEVY, RKO Radio Eastern divisional sales manager, is en route to Jacksonville, Fla., on business.

•

THOMAS L. WALKER, Edward Small Prod. secretary, left New York yesterday for Hollywood.

•

GUS SCHAEFER, RKO Boston district manager, visited the Buffalo exchange last week.

•

BUCK WADE, Universal Salt Lake City manager, has left there for a tour of Montana.

•

NORMAN ELSON, vice-president of Trans-Lux Theatre Corp., will leave today for Boston.

•

SID KULICK and JACK BERKSON of PRC visited the company's Buffalo branch recently.

•

SALEM APPLEGATE, Universal Philadelphia manager, has returned there from Florida.

•

JACK BELLMAN, Republic Buffalo manager, will leave there tomorrow for the Coast.

•

CARL NEDLEY, M-G-M Salt Lake City manager, has returned there from a sales trip.

•

DON TIBBS, Monogram Salt Lake City manager, has returned there from Idaho.

•

GEORGE BAGNALL, United Artists vice-president, will leave today for the Coast.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

FREEDOM of speech and freedom of the press are guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution. Motion pictures and radio were not mentioned since, obviously, they did not exist.

Certain individuals, who cannot be tagged by name, were very much alive to this state of affairs when the Emergency Price Control Act was pushed by the White House in 1940. They pointed out to influential quarters in the Senate, already concerned over the validity of some phases of the EPCA: (1) the framers of the Constitution had freedom of expression in mind, not merely freedom of speech and freedom of the press; (2) the original language was antiquated in the face of developments and progress unpredicted at the time and (3) motion pictures and radio, consequently, fell within the larger definition encompassed by freedom of expression.

Enough Senatorial weight concurred in this line of reasoning and, as a result, the EPCA specifically excluded controls over films and broadcasting when it was finally passed. That radio is controlled by the Federal Communications Commission is another matter and another story not germane to this rollback in contemporary history.

■

With the further exemptions of wages and agricultural prices, both accommodated elsewhere in the Federal structure, EPCA was broad enough to establish price ceilings over all businesses and over all industries. It set up the base out of which OPA finally sprang into existence and included a provision under which control was given teeth through the licensing of business and the revocation of such licenses in the event any business failed to observe the roof placed over its head.

Originally considered, however, was control of both wages and farm prices, since Washington eyes were traveling north of the border into Canada where regulation at large had been introduced earlier. In fact, the Canadian basis was discussed and pondered seriously in the days preceding final action by Congress on EPCA.

■

It is interesting, in retrospect, to point out the American price control law was inactively on the statute books for something beyond a year. No one paid any particplar attention to it, the salient slant being the law was there if, when and as desired. All three of these conditions, moreover, did not swing into line until about six months after Pearl Harbor when EPCA was activized with the organization of OPA under Leon Henderson.

■

The flurry latterly stirred by Chester Bowles on admission and film rental control has background, too. The move is not exactly new, either. The occasions, in fact, have been several in the last five years when unofficial, and short-lived, consideration has been given to placing restrictions on rentals. These moves took on fractional weight on the heels of scattered exhibitor association resolutions threatening distributors, via OPA, in what actually were pressure tactics designed to improve the general terms of their film buys. Nothing happened because nothing could under the existing law as solons remembered or re-discovered on inspection.

Theatremen who adopted such advocacy were warned through various channels that it was a dynamite manouevre since a ceiling on rentals automatically would have unhinged the door on a ceiling on admissions. The advice was never seriously heeded.

■

When Henderson was OPA administrator, he pursued a policy in opposition to ceilings on admissions. In a number of speeches on the principles of price regulation, he emphasized with regularity his opinion certain commodities and services should not be subjected to control because, unchecked, they served to siphon off surplus funds in restless public pockets and therefore reduced the possibility of a further spiral in the inflationary curve. Theatre prices, definitely, were one of the services believed in his mind.

The EPCA, enacted in 1940, was given a five-year span of life. In one form or another, it appears a virtual certainty that it will be continued, and it should. Whether its renewed span will embrace price control over this industry remains to be seen although the indications as of now are against it.

Meanwhile, the strategy launched by Bowles represents the solitary course available to him. He cannot regulate this industry under the current law. The current law is about to die and a new piece of legislation must replace it. This is the simple explanation of why he is probing possibilities and lining up reactions. Included are those in opposition already handed him by Senator Wagner and other members of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee.

■ ■

By report, Neil Agnew and Harry Ross went West to discuss a plan whereby David O. Selznick would distribute through a newly-created sales force filtering through Ross Federal offices. It is understood Selznick planned six or seven of his own, or made under his guidance, plus four outside attractions acquired per year. But Selznick may find himself limited to three while raw stock restrictions obtain, and outside product is dubious for the same reason. The idea, by further report may not jell for these reasons.

■ ■

Now that the 'Little Flower' has extended the curfew, will those timely Warners change "The Horn Blows at Midnight" to "The Horn Blows at 1 A.M."?

■ ■

On Henry J. Kaiser and prefabricated theatres: More in the forthcoming edition of *Motion Picture Herald.*

Starr Combines U.A. Radio, Exploitation

Martin Starr, in charge of radio promotions, has been appointed exploitation director at United Artists, Barry Buchanan, UA director of advertising-publicity, reported yesterday. Starr inaugurated the company's radio department three years ago and will combine his new duties with radio activities.

Starr started in the industry as a publicist with the old Fox Film Corp. He then managed several New Jersey theatres for Fox; was a reporter on the defunct *Graphic* here; produced the early series of True Story Pictures; managed Hollywood stars; press-agented for the late Florenz Ziegfeld; edited *Motion Picture Weekly;* served as film commentator and drama critic on Station WMCA.

Reception Tonight for Gertrude Merriam

Some 350 industry friends of Gertrude Merriam, associate editor of the *Managers' Round Table* of *Motion Picture Herald* will attend a reception tonight at the New Amsterdam Theatre Roof, on the occasion of her marriage, next Sunday, to Howard Ernstthal, textile tycoon, at the Hotel Bolivar, here.

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BUSINESS IS GREAT!

This ticket-selling Trailer shows how they sold it BIG in all openings!

with Agnes Moorehead Bill Johnson • Natalie Schafer • Lee Patrick Jess Barker • June Lockhart Original Screen Play by Mary C. McCall, Jr. and George Bruce • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture Directed by Edward Buzzell • Produced by George Haight

Trailer opens on blank screen with sound effects of cat fight. "Meow! Psst!" etc.

TITLE: LISTEN!

The scene lights up and we show a ding-dong back fence cat-fight with plenty of feline action.

TITLE: HERE COMES THE MOST HILARIOUSLY FUNNY CAT FIGHT SINCE "THE WOMEN" CAME TO TOWN ... WITH THEIR CLAWS OUT AND THEIR HAIR DOWN!

Wipe to shots of the three stars.

TITLES: LANA TURNER *(in negligee)*
LARAINE DAY *(in riding breeches)*
SUSAN PETERS *(in street clothes)*

Over the slapping scene in the hotel room. Turner slaps Day.

TITLE: AS 3 CUDDLY KITTENS WHO TAKE OFF THEIR MITTENS AND FIGHT TO A LAUGH FINISH IN

Shot of the truck as it pans out and we see sign "Wolftrap" on back.

TITLE: M-G-M's "KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY"

A series of shots with superimposed title, played for speed...and followed by the dialogue scenes.

Shot of three girls in work clothes. Peters in middle . . . Day and Turner shake hands.

TITLES: THEY HISS! THEY KISS!

Wipe to shot in barracks where Day and Turner are arguing. Peters stands between them.

TITLES: THEY BATTLE! THEY BAWL!

Over a two shot of Susan Peters and her husband.

TITLES: THEY LOVE! AND THEY GET LOVED!

Here we wipe to dialogue scenes: "Man cannot live on C rations alone, there are other hungers" . . . the scene where Turner tells Day she'll slap her face . . . the scene where boy tells Turner she has longest eye blinkers . . . and the love scene between Peters and her husband.

Close up of Lana Turner

TITLE: LANA TURNER

Close up of Laraine Day

TITLE: LARAINE DAY

Close up of Susan Peters

TITLE: SUSAN PETERS

Shot of girls in bathing suits at swimming location.

TITLE: IN A LOWDOWN ON WOMEN IN A MAN'S WORLD... THAT'S A TORRENT OF LAUGHS.

M-G-M's "KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY"

LITHO USA

FP-C Plans String Of Supply Branches

TORONTO, March 20.—With an eye on postwar circuit expansion, Famous Players Canadian Corp. has effected changes for the immediate development of its wholly-owned subsidiary, General Theatre Supply Co., to take care of demands for the sale and installation of projection and other equipment and supplies. New branches, including warehouse accommodation, are being opened at Winnipeg, St. John and Vancouver to establish a string of offices in Canada's key centers in addition to those already established at Toronto and Montreal. Accompanying this expansion, the company is understood to be acquiring a number of new equipment lines, which will be avalaible to Famous Players and other Canadian theatres when wartime restraints are lifted.

To arrange for the expansion of the equipment company, Frank H. Kershaw, former FP-C district manager of downtown theatres in Vancouver and Victoria, has been promoted to the Toronto headoffice, as previously reported in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, and the management of General Theatre Supply will continue to be in the hands of Peter D. Brown, who has been in charge here for many years.

Stars to Appear at Red Cross Benefit

The Skouras Theatre interests, which are sponsoring a Red Cross benefit at the Academy of Music, New York, March 28, yesterday listed stars and others, who are scheduled to appear at the show.

Among those who are to appear are: Cab Calloway, Joan Edwards, Victor Borge, Peter Lorre, Carl Ravazza, Spyros K. Stamos, Nicola Moscona, John Sabatian, Lew Lehr, Jay Jostyn, Sigmund Spaeth, Jack Pearl, Milo Boulton, Doris Doree, Thelma Carpenter, Johnny Olson, Dale Belmont, Bob Dixon, the Paramount Stage Show, the Roxy Stage Show, the Cafe Zanzibar Show, Vyvyan Donner, Fox Movietone News Fashion Editor.

Top Red Cross Fund Goal, Asks President

(*Continued from page* 1)

for our own. The need was never greater. It will not soon be less."

"Tonight there are over 7,500,000 Americans overseas or fighting afloat in this great war." he said. "There are nearly 70,000 Americans in enemy prison camps," he added. "We can be proud of all that the Red Cross has meant to them.

"This is no call for charity. This is our chance to serve those who serve us," he pointed out. "We cannot give too much to those who have given us the heroic hazards of their lives," he concluded.

Scarborough Named President of CEA

LONDON, March 20.—The Cinematograph Exhibitors Association, at its annual meeting, has elected George H. Scarborough of Leicester president of the general council for the ensuing year, succeeding Sidney W. Clift of Birmingham. Fred A. Pryor of Nottingham was named to replace Yarborough as vice-president.

20th-Fox to Build Two Video Stations

(*Continued from page* 1)

permission to build a series of television relay stations to use channels nine through 16, with stations to be erected in Peru Mountain, Vt.; New York City, Buffalo, Detroit, El Paso, Des Moines, Chicago and Los Angeles. Paramount's Balaban and Katz already operates television station WBKB in Chicago, and Paramount, an experimental station in Los Angeles.

Loew's recently filed applications with FCC for permission to construct television stations in New York, Washington and Los Angeles. Warner Bros. has filed an application to construct a station in Hollywood with a site for the station having already been acquired.

RKO is the only company which has no immediate plans to seek actual television stations, but the company's RKO Television Corp., headed by Ralph Austrian, is already engaged in producing both filmed and "live" television shows for clients on stations now operating and it has post-war plans in this direction.

Rosenthal to Discuss Theatre Television

A technical discussion of the Scophony theatre television equipment will be given at the next meeting of the Atlantic Coast Section of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, to be held at the Hotel Pennsylvania, here, today. Dr. A. N. Rosenthal, director of research and development of Scophony, will be the speaker, on the subject, "Problems of Theatre Television Projection Equipment," discussing theatre television projection technique, size, brightness, definition, etc., of projected television pictures, and methods of overcoming certain limitations.

Montgomery Abroad For Rank-Lawrence

Bob Montgomery, who recently resigned as Eastern director of publicity for Lester Cowan Productions, will leave for England within two weeks to establish and become head of the London office of the Jock Lawrence Organization, press and public relations representative in this country of the various J. Arthur Rank British interests.

Previous to joining Cowan Productions, Montgomery was executive assistant to Hal Horne, director of publicity-advertising for 20th Century-Fox.

PCCITO Protests Any Reduction of Prints

LOS ANGELES, March 20.—The Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners today revealed a resolution has been presented to Stanley Adams of the War Production Board, Washington, protesting against any reduction of prints.

The PCCITO stressed its contention that any further reduction of the number of prints would tend to discriminate against independent exhibitors by delaying clearance.

$1.50 RKO Dividend

The RKO board here yesterday declared a $1.50 dividend on six per cent preferred, payable May 1 to holders of record April 10.

Leven Wins $1,000 Bond for 6th Aid

A top prize of a $1,000 war bond has been awarded to Edward J. Leven of the Telenews Theatre, San Francisco, for promotional ideas submitted by him to promote the sale of war bonds during the Sixth War Loan Drive. A total of 3,227 ideas were judged this week in the $5,000 national contest, sponsored by screen magazines.

John Hertz, Jr., national publicity chairman during the drive, stated that many of the ideas will be used in the campaign for the Seventh Loan Drive. The nine other winners, each of whom received a $500 bond, were: Guy B. Anis, New Princess, Lexington, Tenn;. Rosa Hart, Paramount, Lake Charles, La.; John Heflinger, Park, Pasadena, Cal.; John Jones, Concho, San Angelo, Texas; Jack Matlack, Broadway, Portland, Ore.; William S. Phillips, State, Newark; Benjamin H. Serkowich, Capitol, New York; Charles Smakwitz, Strand, Albany; Al Weiss, Pitkin, Brooklyn.

Winners were selected for the ingenuity of their ideas and not on total sales or increase of sales over previous bond drives.

Independents Delay Chicago First-Runs

CHICAGO, March 20. — Shortage of suitable first-run houses in the Loop will hold up more important product of independent producers. This is particularly true of United Artists in which some of the individual producers pick the first run house in key cities.

Lester Cowan had delayed the local release of "Tomorrow the World," due to his inability to secure an 'A' house. He has turned down the independent Oriental, which has been playing first run 'B' product, as well as B. and K.'s Apollo and Garrick theatres, due to their limited capacity.

Crowded schedules in the B. and K. State Lake, Chicago, Roosevelt and United Artists have left little room for any product outside of top Warner, M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox and Paramount pictures this season. David Selznick's "I'll Be Seeing You" is another picture kept, although it has already been seen in Minneapolis and Milwaukee.

Because of the critical raw stock situation, "Brenda Starr, Reporter," Columbia serial originally scheduled for April release, has been set back to July, Benjamin Lourie, exchange manager discloses. Similar adjustments of other company product probably will be necessary.

Para. Club Reelects Reagan as President

All officers and the board of governors of the Distribution Department Club, Inc., of Paramount were reelected yesterday for a year at an annual meeting at the home office. The club includes sales executives in the home office, and district and branch managers in the United States and Canada.

Officers are: Charles M. Reagan, president; George A. Smith and R. M. Gillham, vice-presidents, and G. B. J. Frawley, secretary and treasurer. The officers and Frank Meyer constitute the board of governors.

RKO in Deal With French

(*Continued from page* 1)

French, he said, are making strenuous efforts to get their film industry started again, and presently have about two or three pictures in production, he said. French theatre business is "terrific," Reisman stated, since the French are "starved" for U. S. films.

The Eastman Kodak plant in Paris and a raw stock plant in Belgium are operating on a limited basis, RKO Radio's foreign sales head said, with 1,871,000 meters of stock having been produced since liberation day in Paris. This approximates 5,700,000 feet of stock and has been apportioned among U. S. distributors, the Office of War Information, the British Ministry of Information and native producers.

Most film companies are operating with much of their old personnel, Reisman said; resistance groups hid much studio and laboratory equipment from the Nazis.

Reisman, who was the first U. S. foreign department head to reach Paris, went there as a commercial representative for RKO Radio and not, as some reports stated, on a Government mission, he said. Joseph Friedman, Columbia's British managing director, and David Rose, Paramount's British manager, have also made trips to the Continent. Recent films are being released slowly in France, Reisman said, as they must be dubbed. Dubbing plants are now open.

While in England, Reisman conferred with J. Arthur Rank, British film leader, who is coming to the U. S. in May. Rank, Reisman said, is stepping up production and is determined to compete with Hollywood on a qualitative basis.

MPOE Votes IATSE Charter Acceptance

Membership of Motion Picture Office Employes Union, Local 23169, AFL, representing over 800 "white collar" workers in Warner and Universal home offices and at Paramount News, has unanimously ratified the acceptance by the union of a charter from the IATSE.

MPOE officers were instructed to sign all necessary documents and make preparations to have Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, install the union as an IATSE local upon his return from California.

MPOE has set a dance and entertainment to be held at the Hotel Henry Hudson here April 13 to raise funds to carry on the union's participation in a servicemen's canteen at the Hotel Capitol here in collaboration with the American Federation of Office Employes Local 23076.

Republic Has Two Rogers' in Backlog

Roy Rogers, Republic Western star who will enter the Army June 4, following a tour of Army hospitals, beginning April 4, currently has "Utah" in release, "Bells of Rosarita" finished and "Man from Oklahoma" in work.

In recent months the studio has used Rogers in "Brazil" and "Lake Placid Serenade," as 'guest star,' and starred him in his own features, "Lights of Old Santa Fe," "San Fernando Valley" and "Song of Nevada."

RK
RADIANT
LATIN R
AND R
Pan-A
7 SIZZLING TUNES BY
ARY BARROSO • MARGARITA LECUONA
GABRIEL RUIZ • PEPE GUIZAR
CARLOS CASTELLANOS
ANTONIO FERNANDEZ
BOBBY COLLAZO
PHILLIP TERRY
ERNEST TRUEX
Produced
GET CREDIT FOR YOUR RED CROSS COLLECTION.
SEND YOUR REPORT TO YOUR AREA CHAIRMAN.

O's RIOT OF RHYTHM ROMANCE!

A rocket bomb of torrid tunes and amazing specialties—all wrapped up in a glitter-show geared for laughs and speed-ball musical excitement!

AND ALL THESE HEADLINERS IN THE ONE PICTURE!

ROSARIO and ANTONIO World-famed wizards of the dance!

MIGUELITO VALDES Top-flight Cuban night-club star!

HAROLD and LOLA Sensational in their "Snake Dance"!

LOUISE BURNETT Amazing voice—hits C above high C!

CHINITA MARIN Porto Rican queen of sultry song!

CHUY CASTILLON and PADILLA SISTERS Mexico's marvelous singing trio!

CHUY REYES and HIS ORCHESTRA Keyboard king of the Rhumba!

NESTOR AMARAL and BRAZILIAN SAMBA BAND See why his records are best sellers!

Americana

with

AUDREY LONG · ROBERT BENCHLEY · EVE ARDEN

MARC CRAMER · ISABELITA

JOHN H. AUER · Screen Play by Lawrence Kimble

RKO RADIO PICTURES

Rent Bill Up Today Would Lift Ceiling

(Continued from page 1)

date of retroactivity to be June, 1943, while some members of the committee favor 1944.

Four other rent bills seem to be definitely shelved with the possible exception of the bill introduced Feb. 7 by Senator Lazarus Joseph, which is presently in an unfavorable position, but which has been receiving much publicity from the press as the bill which should be passed. A failure to compromise on the Steingut bill might force through the Joseph measure. This bill is the direct antithesis of the Steingut measure from the viewpoint of theatres, in that it states that all sites used for "commercial purposes" are subject to the rent ceiling. "Commercial purposes" is defined as "Any purpose other than residential or dwelling," which specifically includes theatres. The retroactive date in this bill is set at March 1, 1943, which is considered a fair date, since rents had not risen abnormally as of that time. Any landlord, if this bill becomes law, may raise his rent 15 per cent above what the tenant was paying on June 1, 1943. The bill also provides for court relief for the landlord, provided the additional 15 per cent does not meet the cost of operating the building and also produce a fair measure of profit. (No definition is made of what constitutes a "fair margin.")

N. Y. C. Most Affected

All of the bills cover cities in the State with populations of 1,000,000 or more, making New York the city most affected. In the meantime, the Supreme Court of New York has created a special term for the purpose of hearing rent actions only, there being a reported 2,000 such suits. Justice Irving L. Levey is in charge and will sit on all cases.

Discrimination Bills Up in Pennsylvania

(Continued from page 1)

House, and a Senate group is preparing another which would embody the administration viewpoint.

Representative Homer S. Brown, sponsor of one of the bills, stressed the need for a state law to guarantee equal work opportunities. Enactment of a bill forbidding discrimination because of "race, creed, color, national origin, or ancestry" would be a "stabilizing influence" on minority groups "who feel they have no protection," he said. In answer to Gov. Edward Martin's criticism that this bill would be "too expensive" to carry out, Brown said that a state fair employment practice law might save funds by preventing violence and strikes.

Party for Schaefer

Lester Cowan Prod. will welcome its new board chairman, George J. Schaefer, at a reception at the Sherry Netherlands this afternoon. William Pierce, Cowan's advertising-publicity director, and Albert Margolies, Eastern publicity director, will attend.

Government Film Workers Join CSU Studio Strike

(Continued from page 1)

cial meeting of its strategy committee, SCU asserted, "Never has it been our intent to impede in any way the production of bonafide Government films. Requests for members of unions on strike to do work on Government films have been made by representatives of commercial producers only, and there is abundant evidence that men supplied in compliance with this request have been used in other than Government work. Also, it is substantiated that the producers and IATSE have been assigning men from other locals to act as strikebreakers on such films. It is unthinkable that were the Government aware of this, it would endorse or encourage the employment of strikebreakers. In line with these facts, the union on strike and unions supporting the strike will not honor any requests for men to work on Government films unless such requests are completely identified as being for bonafide contracted Government films, and all requests must clear through proper Government channels and be made by Government agencies or through Government officials in charge of such product."

First 'IA' Rebellion

The first rebellion in IATSE ranks occurred when property men at the Universal and Warner studios walked out when asked to do carpentering and painting in replacement of striking SCU craftsmen. Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, had directed IATSE men to do any type of struck work when asked to do so by the studio management. Property men who refused were holding a special meeting tonight to decide whether to obey Walsh's order.

Earlier today, members of Ornamental Plasterers Union 755, basic agreement union without IATSE or CSU affiliation, left Universal when ordered to work on sets constructed by IATSE men doing SCU craftsmen's work. The studio reported that some returned later in the day. The union is meeting tonight on its further policy.

Following a meeting, a producers' spokesman revealed that the producers labor committee had met with Walsh and declared their intention to keep the studios in operation and received Walsh's assurance he will cooperate to that end.

'IA' Charters Sought

Confirming reports that Walsh is directing IATSE men to perform struck work, IATSE international representative Roy Brewer said: "We're directing our men to do whatever needs to be done. Our purpose is to keep production moving. We want to get the striking unions back to work too, and some of their members are begging us to give them IATSE charters so they can go back." Asked whether any have been offered to striking groups, he said: "Not yet but we're ready to give them charters under the right conditions." Brewer said IATSE is not expecting Washington intervention.

Screen Writers Guild executive committee met last night and authorized a special committee to take any necessary steps with respect to the strike but adopted a general policy of awaiting developments.

The producers were in special session tonight, with the whole situation under study.

Services on Sunday For H.M.Richey's Son

Memorial services for Lt. David Henderson Richey, son of Henderson M. Richey, director of exhibitor relations for M-G-M, and Mrs. Naomi Muhn Richey, will be held Sunday afternoon at 4:30 P. M. at the First Presbyterian Church, New Rochelle. Rev. Robert Hartley will officiate. Also surviving is a sister, Margery.

Lt. Richey was killed with 11 other crewmen when the B-24 Liberator of which he was navigator crashed on March 10 off Montauk Point, Long Island. Two of the bodies were recovered, but efforts to locate the others and the plane have failed, although Lt. Richey's flying jacket was recovered Saturday.

Cordero Buys 42

J. A. Cordero, manager of Inter-Continental -Films, has completed arrangements for acquisition of 20 Chesterfield and Invincible pictures for first release in Latin America, and 22 Spanish dialogue subjects selected in Argentina for Puerto Rico, Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia and the U. S.

Terry Leaves J. J.

Clem Terry, general manager of J. J. Theatres, here, has resigned. Terry has been with the company, previously known as Consolidated Amusements, for 15 years.

Fraser Joins 20th's Exploitation Staff

George Fraser has been appointed a member of 20th Century-Fox's exploitation staff under Rodney Bush, replacing Lou Gerard, who was transferred this week to the publicity department under Jules Fields, to head special services.

Fraser, a returned war veteran, has been a member of the home office publicity staffs of Paramount, 20th Century-Fox and Columbia, and recently returned from the Coast, where he was an RKO publicity writer.

Goldstein Promoted By Paramount Music

Sidney Goldstein has been appointed to succeed Sidney Kornheiser as an executive of Paramount Music Corp. and Famous Music Corp. Goldstein has been with Famous for the past eight years in New York, Chicago and Hollywood, with the past 18 months spent on the Coast.

Station WERC Joins NBC

Radio station WERC, Erie, Pa., has become affiliated with National Broadcasting, effective June 15, William S. Hedges, NBC vice-president in charge of station relations, has announced here. WERC was formerly an outlet for Columbia Broadcasting.

Roosevelt Backing Byrnes on Curfew

(Continued from page 1)

not thought of sanctions to cut off manpower.

At the Capitol, the situation was a subject of comment, with representative William M. Colmer of Mississippi telling the House that, if necessary, he would introduce a resolution to make all cities comply with the curfew. Representative Dickstein of New York, however, defended LaGuardia, contending New York should be exempt from the midnight closings because "its citizens are different from other people." He added: "They are just as patriotic as others, but it's a city of 7,500,000 and thousands of soldiers are walking the streets at all hours looking for a place to eat."

Byrnes' admission that the Government was powerless to enforce the curfew without the support of local police was seen as a 'green light,' not only for New York, but for the rest of the country as well.

Mayors of most of the country's other big cities stood by Byrnes, but many were facing pressure from entertainment fields, and it was considered likely that a wholesale shift to one A. M. might develop.

Statements Received

Among statements on the curfew arriving from various parts of the country was that of Governor Frank J. Lausche of Ohio, who said: "We cannot as individuals substitute our own wishes for the requirements prescribed for officials in authority. Therefore, as long as the curfew is in effect nationally, it remains in Ohio, insofar as it is within my jurisdiction."

Likewise, Mayor Roger Lapham of San Francisco said: "As far as I am concerned, we will continue to obey the Government's midnight closing order."

B'way Houses Await New Curfew Ruling

New York's first-run theatres on Broadway were yesterday awaiting a further determination of the curfew controversy between Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes before making a final decision on their closing hour.

Theatres here, with the exception of Radio City Music Hall, have taken advantage of the extra hour permitted by LaGuardia. Indications yesterday were that the Music Hall will continue its policy of closing before midnight.

Report Toledo House For 4 A.M. Closing

TOLEDO, March 20.—The case of the Loop Theatre here, which allegedly stayed open until four A. M. today was certified to the National War Manpower Commission by Ralph O. Snyder, area WMC director, who said the house "very definitely will be closed." The closing process would take a few days, he added. Jack O'Connell, owner of the theatre, had announced yesterday that he was resuming his pre-curfew schedule.

This is the first instance of a theatre's being reported to the WMC in Washington for alleged violation of the curfew.

Hirliman in Post-war Projector Field for Schools, Churches

Some 50,000 16mm projectors, to sell at $149.50 each, and involving total factory-purchase and production costs in excess of $5,000,000, will be manufactured for the post-war by International Theatrical and Television Corp., of which George A. Hirliman is president, he admits to MOTION PICTURE DAILY. Hirliman is now on the Coast.

Immediate production will be only for those with priority orders, Hirliman said, and Government agencies, including the Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. The Army and Navy now have approximately 5,000 16mm projectors, and need more. At the end of the war, Hirliman will concentrate on supplying schools and churches. There are 22,839 16mm and 35mm projectors, silent and sound in 43,208 colleges, high schools and elementary schools of the nation. Some 68,277 schools exist.

MPPDA Prediction

The Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America predicted last Dec. 15 that within a five-year period after the end of the war, all schools in the nation would be using films for visual education. It is this group that Hirliman will go after in his attempt at mass sales. It is hoped through mass production to ultimately reduce the cost of the projectors to $75 each, enabling most schools to own several.

Hirliman and Harry A. Kapit, head of the Walter O. Gutlohn, Inc., division of Hirliman's International, have gone to the Coast with the intention of strengthening the national set-up of ITT. Main object of the trip is to form a production unit in Hollywood, which will be maintained to produce only 16mm films. Unlike the instructional and documentary unit which Kapit heads in the East, this unit will devote itself mostly to the making of entertainment pictures: musicals, Westerns, comedies and dramas. Personnel for this branch will be chosen by both Hirliman and Kapit, and the unit will go into work immediately.

Various branch-office deals throughout the West are being consumated, and 16mm distributors will be contacted as well,with the idea of discussing the enlargement of their film libraries.

Hirliman and Kapit will be traveling for approximately four weeks before returning to New York.

ITT Secures Six More Key Branches

International Theatrical and Television Corp., has closed two franchise deals for six additional 16 mm exchange outlets, for Boston, New Haven, Portland, Me., Memphis, New Orleans and Charlotte. The deals were made with Arthur Lockwood and Louis Gordon, for New England, and with Wells Alexander and Russel McGee, for the South. The latter will continue to operate the Atlanta office, and in addition to setting up exchanges in Memphis, New Orleans and Charlotte will also take over the present Walter O. Gutlohn office in Dallas.

"A Royal Scandal"

(*Continued from page 1*)

unlike his predecessors, Lubitsch was not awed by this fact in using a few of the Czarina's spirited escapades and a bit of the intrigue as the basis for his film. Most of the action in the Mayer screenplay, from an adaption by Bruno Frank, of a play by Lajos Biro and Melchior Lengyel, revolves around an incident in the Czarina's many amours. This one is with an impetuous young cavalry lieutenant who has ridden three days and three nights from the Western Front to warn his Czarina that her generals there are plotting her life. Miss Bankhead is the Czarina and Eythe, the lieutenant. Since he is not the least bit tired as a result of his self-imposed and harrowing mission, he quickly finds favor with the Czarina. His promotion to General and head of the Palace Guard is breathtakingly and gleefully rapid. Even the French Ambassador, played by Price, has to wait while Eythe produces over 50 edicts to correct what is wrong with Russia. Coburn, the wily Chancellor, is an old hand at treating with such situations but this one is complicated by the fact that Eythe's fiancee, played by Miss Baxter, is a lady-in-waiting to the Empress.

IT is not until he discovers that his edicts have been consigned tothe waste-per basket that Eythe turns on his Empress. He abets a *coup d'etat* being fomented by the military clique at the palace, headed by Ruman as General Ronsky. However, his neck is saved by the lasting impression he has left with Catherine and the charm of the French Ambassador who replaces him.

Dialogue and situations have the zip of modernity while the background is costume and historic. Miss Bankhead is superb as the Czarina and Eythe is grand as the befuddled lieutenant who knows only loyalty to his Empress. Coburn is delightful as the Chancellor and Miss Baxter is properly indignant as the spurned lady-in-waiting. Price's performance as the French Ambassador is another highlight. Preminger's direction keeps things moving at a swell pace without a moment's letdown. Credit must also go to Arthur Miller's excellent photography; to Alfred Newman's musical background and to everyone else associated with this enterprise. Lubitsch has come up with another winner in "A Royal Scandal."

Running time, 94 minutes. Adult classification. To be released in April.

MILTON LIVINGSTON

PTA to Aid Owners Solve Delinquency

CLEVELAND, March 20.—George W. Erdmann, secretary of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors' Association, speaking on 'theatre behavior' before members of the Motion Picture Council, suggested that psychiatric clinics be established in public schools and that there should be closer cooperation among social service agencies and juvenile courts to improve the behavior of teen-age children in theatres.

Fred Holzworth, manager of the Hilliard Square Theatre; Ray Allison, manager of the Shaker Theatre, and Norman Ek, manager of the Shore, accepted the suggestion that a PTA member be assigned to 'cover' a neighborhood theatre every Friday night and get the names of offenders.

Vandalism is reduced in some sections but rampant in others. Manager Ek, whose Shore Theatre is located in one of the 'better' neighborhoods, reported that during the past year, between 500 and 600 seats, approximately one-third of his total seating capacity, had to be reupholstered due to vandalism.

Churchmen to Show 'King of Kings'

ALBANY, N. Y., March 20.—Cecil B. De Mille's silent "King of Kings" will be exhibited in theatres throughout the country during Holy Week under the auspices of Protestant church organizations. In upstate cities of New York the State Council of Churches and local federation affiliates will sponsor the picture. Managements will give free use of their theatres for special performances, to which no admission is charged; a free-will offering, to defray expenses of the screening, is to be taken up.

Koppelman to NSS

PHILADELPHIA, March 20.—Moe Koppelman has assumed duties as assistant to Stanley Goldberg, National Screen Service branch head here.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, March 20

PARAMOUNT has purchased Irving Stone's "Immortal Wife," based on the life of Jessie Fremont, young wife of Gen. John Fremont; Karl Tunberg will produce. . . . Janet Blair has been chosen for the feminine lead in the forthcoming Columbia musical, "Tars and Spars."

•

Ray Young, production manager for PRC, has been named studio business manager; Raoul Pagel, former unit manager, will replace Young. . . . Garry Moore has purchased an original screen story by Jameson Brewer, entitled "That's My Boy." Moore, who is under contract to David O. Selznick, plans to make it as an outside picture.

•

Cornel Wilde and Anita Louise will play the top roles in Columbia's "Bandit of Sherwood Forest." . . . Lindsley Parsons will handle production on "The Two-Way Street," story of Lend-Lease. The subject is the joint contribution of Monogram and PRC to the War Activities Committee-OWI film program.

•

Next picture on William O'Sullivan's schedule at Republic is "The Crooked Mile," murder mystery in which Don (Red) Barry will be starred. Steve Sekely will direct, and E. Jocelyn White will be associate producer. . . . Hunt Stromberg has exercised his option on singer Johnny Clark.

"Can anyone tell a lonesome bride what to do?"

with

Peter COOKSON • Arline JUDGE
Frank JENKS • Jerome COWAN

Produced by LINDSLEY PARSONS • Directed by PHIL KARLSTEIN
Screenplay by Richard Weil
Adapted from the play by A. J. Rubien, Robert Chapin and Marian Page Johnson

MONOGRAM PICTURES

A MONOGRAM PICTURE

Predicts Big Strides For Color in Postwar

The photographic industry will take a new place in national economy after the war, E. Allan Williford, vice-president in charge of the Ansco Division of General Aniline and Film Corp., disclosed upon returning from a 7,000-mile transcontinental trip during which he conferred with dealers and distributors and with the company's division heads and representatives.

"Every indication points to color film assuming after the war a new economic importance," he said. "Black-and-white film is expected to remain at prewar levels. Color-film, however, will advance on a huge scale and will build total film sale volume to unprecedented levels."

Chorus Equity Will Nominate on Friday

Meeting of the Chorus Equity Association will be held on Friday afternoon, at the Hotel Capitol, New York City, to elect six members of the association to serve on a nominating committee whose duty it will be to prepare the regular ticket of officers, representatives on the Equity Council and members of the executive committee.

The regular ticket for 1945-1946, which will be submitted to the membership in advance of the annual meeting, will require the nomination of a chairman of the executive committee, to serve one year; a recording secretary, to serve one year; a member of Equity Council, to serve until the annual meeting of 1950; and seven members of the executive committee to serve three years.

Independents Decry New Checking Unit

(*Continued from page 1*)

asserts that exhibitors are aroused over formation of the new checking organization, scheduled to begin operations April 2, and calls upon the five sponsoring distributors to abandon the project. The Indignant Exhibitors, attacking the new organization, conclude that its formation "will go a long way toward outlawing percentage pictures."

New Jersey Allied condemned formation and operation of the new checking company by resolution on the grounds that it "will facilitate the exchange of confidential information" concerning theatres by distributors. A copy of the resolution was sent to Assistant U. S. Attorney General Robert Wright.

$3,299,541 Crosley Profit for Year

CINCINNATI, March 20.—Crosley Corp. reports a net profit of $3,299,541 on total sales of $98,168,438 for 1944, equal to $6.04 a share on the 545,800 common shares outstanding, after all charges and taxes, but before renegotiation, compared with a net of $2,694,159 on $80,447,762 sales, or $4.93 a share, in 1943. Provision for Federal income and excess profits taxes totaled $10,914,729, in contrast with $8,436,562 in the preceding year. Earned surplus to Dec. 31, 1944, was $9,063,153 against $6,303,821 in 1943.

NBC Promotes Porteous

Roy C. Porteous, with NBC since 1942, has been named assistant manager of the package sales division of the network's program department by Clarence E. Menser, NBC vice-president in charge of programs.

12-Cent Admission Top Set in Mexico

Mexico City, March 20.—First Mexican ceiling price for theatres has been ordered by Governor Antonio Sanchez Cano of Oaxaca State, where admissions for theatres in Oaxaca City, the State capital, have been fixed at 12 cents, including Sundays and holidays.

This ceiling compares with 85 cents for first-run theatres here. Although Oaxaca City exhibitors have accepted the ceiling, they are showing only old pictures. They claim they cannot afford to exhibit new films at 12 cents.

Mexican Producers Turning to Shorts

MEXICO CITY, March 20.—The raw stock shortage here has induced many feature producers and cameramen to seek admittance to the short subject makers' and helper's unions, newest section of the National Cinematographic Industry Union.

Production of newsreels and shorts is expected to be substantially increased this year.

Legion Classifies 5 Additional Pictures

The Legion of Decency has classified five additional pictures. In Class A-II, are "Dillinger," Monogram; "A Guy, a Gal, a Pal," Columbia; "Swingin' on a Rainbow" and "Three's a Crowd," Republic.

"The Affairs of Susan," Paramount, was placed in Class B.

'Colonel Blimp' to Open Here Mar. 29

"Colonel Blimp," second J. Arthur Rank British film to be released here by United Artists, which will have its American premiere at Brandt's Gotham Theatre here March 29 under the sponsorship of the Society of Illustrators, was reviewed in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, from London, on June 9, 1943. It was then titled "The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp."

Described as "a saga of a diehard British Army General, tracing his career from his Boer War boyhood to pot-bellied retirement and old age," its treatment was said to be "alternately discursive, human, witty and dramatic."

"Though it lacks star-names, and the seriousness of the subject suggests limitations of appeal, the picture is an obvious exploitation bullseye and a prestige opus," the review concluded.

The film is an Archers Production, written, produced and directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, featuring Anton Walbrook, Deborah Kerr and Roger Livesey. Running time has been reduced to 148 minutes from the original 165.

Uswetsky, Quinn on Own

CHICAGO, March 20.—Russ Uswetsky and Dan Quinn, respectively head booker and comptroller of the H. and E. Balaban Circuit, here, have resigned to enter exhibition, taking over the Webster Theatre from Steve Chapin. Joe Feulner, former manager of the Des Plaines Theatre, is the new head booker for H. & E. Balaban. Milt Levy was promoted to Quinn's post, but he is leaving this week to operate the Music Box, formerly owned by the Lasker Brothers.

"The Most Beautiful Girls In The World," hand-picked by glamor-master, Earl Carroll, in a lavish production number from Republic's glittering musical extravaganza, "Earl Carroll Vanities."

ADVT.

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 56 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1945 | TEN CENTS

WLB DEMANDS END OF COAST STRIKE

Independents' Stock Wants Exceed Supply

Committee Declines to Serve on Scheduling

Applications for raw stock quotas by independent producers to the War Production Board are understood to total 200,000,000 feet for the year, or 50,000,000 feet per quarter, compared with the 28,323,720 feet which has been allocated to independents for the second quarter, it is learned.

The formation of a special committee of representatives of independent producers, to include Roy Disney, Walt Disney Productions; Barney Briskin, representative of Sol Lesser Productions; and Thomas L. Walker, representative of Edward Small, which was to advise the WPB on allocation of raw stock to individual independents, has been abandoned. Those designated to serve on

(*Continued on page* 11)

20th Sets Up Funds To Retire Preferred

The 20th Century-Fox board of directors has authorized the setting up of retirement funds for redemption of the prior preferred and convertible preferred stocks, it is learned here.

Each year a specified percentage of the fiscal net is put aside to buy the stock in the open market, conditioned on a certain redemption price. If it is not possible to buy at the redemption price, the prior preferred must be redeemed by lot within six months after the fund is set up.

On the convertible fund, similarly, the company cannot buy above the redemption price, which is 35.

Quebec Enforcing Child-Barring Law

MONTREAL, March 21.—Notice of strict enforcement of Quebec's law prohibiting theatre attendance by children under 16 was given the Quebec Legislature yesterday by Premier Maurice Duplessis, who reported that he had ordered cancel-

(*Continued on page* 9)

Senate Group Cool to New Bowles' Plea

By BERTRAM F. LINZ

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Members of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee today evinced little enthusiasm over proposals to amend the Price Control Act to provide for control of theatre admissions and film rentals after hearing the argument of Price Administrator Chester A. Bowles, who suggested the amendment last week.

Bowles acknowledged that he originally did not favor theatre or film price control, but said he changed his mind after Bureau of Labor Statistics figures

(*Continued on page* 11)

Radio-Film Theatre Tieups Are Up 300%

Number of first-run exhibitors using radio in advance campaigns on Warner pictures has increased in the past six months from 100 to as many as 400, with the trend still upward.

Mort Blumenstock, head of Warner advertising-publicity in the East, in response to a query, confirmed that requests from exhibitors for electrical transcriptions prepared by the company for use in spot announcements

(*Continued on page* 11)

Sorrell Says 'No' to U.S.

HOLLYWOOD, March 21.—The expected intervention by Washington, undertaken today by National War Labor Board Chairman George W. Taylor, failed to end the strike against the major studios when CSU president Herbert Sorrell replied negatively to the telegraphed directive ordering the termination of the dispute.

Sorrell's reply said, "The policy of the unions and guilds in CSU has always been to recognize and abide by the authority of all Government agencies. Our workmen, however, feel their case has been irreparably injured by the continued refusal of the producers to obey the terms of the award by arbitrator Thomas Tongue. We are convinced that if they could obtain a full and fair hearing, a decision would be handed down which would safeguard the rights of the American working-man. I am sorry I have not had an opportunity to present the facts to you in person."

The producers promptly issued this statement: "It is to be hoped that the WLB order will be respected, so the orderly processes of law can permanently settle the dispute through a decision from the National Labor

(*Continued on page* 9)

CSU Walkout Is Called Flagrant Disregard of War Pledge to President

WASHINGTON, March 21.—The National War Labor Board today ordered striking Hollywood studio employes to return to work immediately, declaring the walk-out on March 12 "a flagrant disregard of labor's no-strike pledge to the President and of the procedures established for the peaceful settlement of labor disputes in time of war."

The board's demand was made in a telegram to Herbert Sorrell, president of the Conference of Studio Unions, and Edward Mussa, business representative of the striking Set Designers, Decorators and Illustrators Union. WLB outlined the history of the controversy, which was certified to it by the Secretary of Labor last October 11, pointing out that efforts to adjust the dispute through the labor members of the board and later

(*Continued on page* 9)

RKO, Goetz-Spitz Renew for '45-46

Renewal of its distribution agreement with the William Goetz-Leo Spitz International Pictures covering release of its product during 1945-46 was disclosed here yesterday by authority of Ned Depinet, president of RKO Radio Pictures.

RKO will distribute in 1945-46,

(*Continued on page* 11)

Main and Dale Quit Odeon for Fingold

TORONTO, March 21.—H. C. D. Main and F. Ralph Dale today resigned from executive positions with Odeon Theatres of Canada to enter into a partnership agreement with

(*Continued on page* 9)

New York Theatres Heed Byrnes' Midnight Curfew

New York City theatres which originally took advantage of the extra hour permitted by Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia in his extension of the midnight curfew to one A. M., have returned to their previous midnight closings.

The explanation given is that it had been assumed that the extension had the sanction of the War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes. When it was discovered that Byrnes and even President Roosevelt disowned the New York move, the theatres felt that they had no alternative but to continue to obey the Byrnes edict, it was said here. While most of Broadway first-runs took advantage of the ex-

(*Continued on page* 4)

Oppose U. S. Hand In British Houses

LONDON, March 21.—A 'revolutionary' proposal that American companies be governmentally prevented from having any part in the ownership of British theatres is authoritatively reported to have been made by the British Film Producers Association to the Board of Trade. The proposal is said to be included in a memorandum, delivered today, on BOT's film monopoly report.

In This Issue

Review of "The Clock" appears on page 9. *Motion Picture Daily's* booking chart is on page 12.

Personal Mention

BARNEY BALABAN, Paramount president, will leave the Coast for New York tomorrow.

•

ARTHUR M. LOEW, Loew International president, will return to New York from South America in two weeks. SAM BURGER, special foreign representative, will continue a tour to other South American countries not visited by Loew.

•

E. B. HATRICK, News of the Day and Cosmopolitan Productions vice-president and general manager, will leave the Coast Tuesday for New York.

•

ROY DISNEY, Disney Productions' executive vice-president, arrived in New York yesterday from Washington for a week of conferences with RKO executives before returning to Hollywood.

•

DAVID BERNSTEIN, Loew vice-president and treasurer, will return to New York from Palm Beach on Monday.

•

CLAIRE MANHEIMER, assistant to C. K. STERN, Loew assistant treasurer, will leave New York tomorrow for Miami Beach.

•

M. A. SILVER, Warner Pittsburgh manager, and HARRY FEINSTEIN, his assistant, arrived in New York yesterday from Pittsburgh.

•

LT. L. WARD FARRAR, formerly with Loew's and 20th Century-Fox, as a publicist, is now stationed in the Philippines.

•

JULES LAPIDUS, Warners' Eastern sales manager, will return to New York tomorrow from Buffalo and other Upstate cities.

•

BILL BRUMBERG, Warner field exploitation staff manager, returned to New York yesterday from Pittsburgh, Chicago and Memphis.

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HARRY THOMAS, Monogram's Eastern manager, will return Saturday to New York from Buffalo, Detroit and Chicago.

•

N. PETER RATHVON, RKO president, is en route to the Coast to spend two or three weeks at the studio.

•

CHARLES C. MOSKOWITZ, Loew vice-president, will leave New York for Miami on March 31.

•

OLIN CLARK, M-G-M Eastern story head, will arrive on the Coast tomorrow from New York.

•

GUS EYSSELL, Music Hall managing director, will return to New York today from the Coast.

•

T. E. LAIRD, United Artists assistant to FRED JACK, Southern manager, is visiting Atlanta.

•

SAMUEL GOLDWYN will leave New York for the Coast today.

French Deny 2-Year Limitation Decree

A French Press and Information Service spokesman here declared yesterday that no decree has been invoked by the French authorities barring American films released in the U. S. more than two years ago, but that such a law is still in the discussion stage, and, in all probability would contain instead a three-year limitation, if passed, and would look 'tolerantly' on outstanding films.

Meanwhile, foreign department circles declared that U. S. film companies have no intention of 'dumping' films in France because that would ruin the market by depressing prices. Pointing out that the French market is highly selective, the backlog of films accumulated in the five years of war would never be released in their entirety because many of them are dated war pictures, unacceptable to the French public, they declared. They agreed that if a limitation law were to be passed by the French, top-ranking films would be excepted.

The high cost of dubbing films in France, which costs will undoubtedly become higher in the future, would, of necessity, obviate wholesale distribution of the tremendous backlog accumulated since the outbreak of war. "It is an established economic fact that to dump films would be to create chaos—to the detriment of American interests," one spokesman pointed out.

It was further pointed out that foreign department heads were increasingly adopting a policy of releasing fewer films, but of top calibre, in foreign markets, concentrating on key situations.

Rent Bill Is Passed By New York Senate

ALBANY, N. Y., March 21.—The Senate today passed the Steingut-DiCostanzo rent bill which froze New York retail and office rents at 15 per cent above the June 1, 1944 levels. The vote was 53 to 2 for passage; Assembly action is now pending.

This bill, as reported yesterday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY, excludes theatres from its provisions, and allows landlords to charge any sum they see fit for rent, after current leases expire. An attempt by Senator Joseph to set the rent freeze back to 1943, was defeated by a vote of 33 to 21.

Mallett Will Assist Le Sieur at U.A.

Jo Mallett has joined the United Artists home office advertising department as assistant to Howard Le Sieur, advertising manager, Barry Buchanan, director of advertising and publicity, announced yesterday.

Prior to joining UA, Miss Mallett was associated with the Margaret Ettinger organization in Hollywood.

R.C. Press Luncheon

James M. Cecil, chairman of the public information committee of the New York Red Cross War Fund, will give a luncheon for the press at the Yale Club today.

Sturdivant NT Head In Latin America

SAN FRANCISCO, March 21.—The appointment of B. V. Sturdivant, Northern California division manager of Fox West Coast Theatre, as Latin American manager for National Theatres Amusement Co., with headquarters in Mexico City, was announced here today by Charles P. Skouras, National Theatres president. Sturdivant, who has spent much time in Mexico since the first of the year, is expected to leave for his new assignment within a few days.

Skouras explained that National, a 20th Century-Fox affiliate, is anticipating an 'ambitious program' in Latin America and added that Sturdivant will act as his representative in formulating the plans which have already passed the blueprint stage.

Speaking of the foreign program Skouras placed much emphasis on a pre-fabricated metal which has been developed by his organization and which is expected to be ready for a world-wide market immediately after the cessation of hostilities.

Skouras, Sturdivant and F. H. Ricketson, Jr. of Inter-Mountain Theatres, conferred with executives of steel mills in Monterrey and Monclova during a recent trip to Mexico. They also conferred with Mexican government officials on their plans.

Sturdivant has been associated with Skouras for almost 20 years.

Bond and Charteris In Producing Unit

HOLLYWOOD, March 21.—Announcement was made here yesterday of the founding of Bond-Charteris Enterprises, to engage in a variety of interests, including motion pictures television and allied fields, headed by Leslie Charteris, author of "The Saint" mystery stories, and Anson Bond, who has produced more than 70 films for the Armed Services. Bond is the son of Charles Anson Bond, founder of the Bond clothing stores.

The firm will primarily engage in the production of pictures expressly for television, to be commercially sponsored, and deal primarily with products for inclusion in televised advertisements. Other television products will include 15 to 30 minute 'packaged televised entertainments.'

Production of a series of pictures based on "The Saint" character is scheduled by Bond-Charteris. "Saint" films were formerly produced by RKO and starred George Sanders.

'Fury' Released in Two States Today

"Fury in the Pacific", War Activities Committee-Office of War Information short subject depicting the battle for Peliliu and Angaur Islands, will be released to first-run houses in New York, Brooklyn and New Jersey today. This film is the first to be produced jointly by the Armed Forces.

Warner Brothers is distributing the film for the WAC.

Coming Events

Today—National Association of Motion Picture Independents' meeting, Preview Theatre, New York.

Mar. 23—Motion Picture Associates' luncheon-meeting, Sardi's Restaurant, New York.

Mar. 23—Chorus Equity Association nominating meeting, 1:00, Hotel Capitol, New York.

Mar. 24-25—Warner regional sales meeting, Los Angeles.

Mar. 26—Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America's annual board meeting, New York.

Mar. 27—Cinema Lodge meeting, Hotel Astor, New York.

Mar. 29—Loew's annual stockholders' meeting, New York.

Industry Party for Gertrude Merriam

A buffet supper, reception and party for Gertrude Merriam, associate editor of the *Managers' Round Table* of *Motion Picture Herald*, was held last night at the New Amsterdam Theatre Roof here, with approximately 350 in attendance. Occasion was the forthcoming marriage of Miss Merriam on Sunday to Howard Ernestthal, textile manufacturer, at the Hotel Bolivar, here. Bert Sanford of Altec, acting as master of ceremonies, presented Miss Merriam with a gold watch.

Among those present were executives and theatre men from New York, affiliated and independent circuits, individual houses and others from home offices and the press. Those from out of town included Frank Boucher, Al Sherman, Washington; Harry Unterfort, Syracuse; Irving Mack, Chicago; Morris and Mollie Rosenthal, New Haven; Ted Kirkmeyer, Idaho Falls, Utah; Ben Adler, Newark; 'Red' King, Harry Browning, Boston; George Kraska, Lou Hart, Gloversville; Dave Perkins, Lindhurst, N. J.; Lester Pollock, Rochester; Lige Brien, Pittsburgh, and 'Chuck' Shannon, Sharon, Pa.

Mestanza Tops PRC's Latin Department

Roberto D. Socas, PRC's general export manager, announced yesterday the appointment of H. Alban-Mestanza, formerly in charge of foreign-language production for Monogram, as head of the PRC Latin American Department.

Mestanza's appointment will take effect immediately. He will take charge of all matters pertaining to inter-American distribution, and will also lay the ground work for launching PRC's Spanish dubbed-in program, which is now in preparation.

MPA Board to Meet

The board of directors of Motion Picture Associates will meet here tomorrow at Sardi's Restaurant. Heading the agenda will be a discussion of plans for the organization's annual dinner-dance.

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AMAZING WARNER TIMING! AMAZING WARNER RECEIPTS.

N. Y. Theatres Heed Byrnes

(Continued from page 1)

tra hour during the early part of the week, Radio City Music Hall continued its policy of pre-midnight closings and last night the other theatres fell into line.

Mayor LaGuardia yesterday issued what was indicated to be a virtual 'bill of divorcement' of the city from the rest of the country in a statement spurning President Roosevelt's support of the Byrnes midnight curfew as against his own one A. M. closing hour for all bars and amusement places. "He's running the country: I'm running the city," the Mayor said.

Meanwhile, the Navy officially upheld the Byrnes curfew when it was announced that beginning last night Navy shore patrols would notify Navy personnel found in amusement places after midnight that they are violating the national curfew. Army military police began a similar practice the previous night, ordering Army personnel out of night clubs after midnight.

Mayor LaGuardia will be heard tonight over radio station WJZ, New York, and the Blue Network in a discussion of "Why the One-Hour Tolerance For New York City." It will mark the Mayor's first air appearance since he announced his extension of the curfew hour in New York on his weekly broadcast over station WNYC last Sunday. It will also mark his first discussion of the curfew situation with the public following Byrnes' and President Roosevelt's comment on the extension.

18 Topnotchers to Sponsor 'Col. Blimp'

Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, Vice-Admiral Herbert F. Leary, USN, Comm. of the Eastern Sea Frontier, and Ogden Reid, editor and publisher of the *Herald-Tribune*, have accepted invitations to serve on the Society of Illustrators' honorary committee for the premiere on March 29 of "Colonel Blimp" at the Gotham Theatre, here.

The committee also includes the Earl of Halifax, Mayor La Guardia, Joseph P. Kennedy, J. Arthur Rank, Joseph V. Connolly, John N. Wheeler, Howard Chandler Christy, James Montgomery Flagg, John Golden, Major Edward Bowes, Rear Admiral Monroe Kelly USN, William Randolph Hearst, Jr., Charles B. McCabe, Frank Cronwinshield, and Wallace Morgan.

First BMOI Film On Pacific Ready

British Information Services is discussing with the Office of War Information possible release of "Pacific Thrust," first of 40 British Ministry of Information films about the Pacific Campaign.

The film, a three-reeler, was finished in January; it is an 'orientation' film of the Pacific War from the time of the first Jap victories to recent footage of the campaign in the Philippines.

The BMOI program is being prepared to put the British people in the "right psychological mood" to continue the fight against Japan despite the imminent defeat of Germany.

Lure Needed to Move Chicago Children

Chicago, March 21.—Neighborhood exhibitors, needing seats for waiting customers, particularly on weekends, are resorting to an old lure to draw youngsters out of theatres following the first show, announcing that all who forego sitting through a show again will receive candy or a pass for one for a weekday afternoon. Between 100 and 300 seats usually become available following an announcement. Of the passes distributed, less than 50 per cent are used.

Final Depinet Drive Meet Here Today

Robert Folliard, 'captain' of RKO Radio's 1945 'Ned Depinet Drive', accompanied by short subject sales manager Harry Michalson and Mike Poller, returned to New York, yesterday, for the final drive meeting, scheduled for today, at the New York exchange.

Completing a 40-day tour of the company's branches in the U. S. and Canada, Folliard reported that the drive, scheduled to end on May 10, is now in full swing at all branches. On hand for today's meeting at the New York exchange will be branch manager Phil Hodes and his entire sales staff, and Harry Michalson, Harry Gittleson, Walter Branson, Mike Poller, Frank Drumm and Charles Boasberg.

Cowan Prod. Is Host To George Schaefer

Lester Cowan Productions yesterday was host at a cocktail party for George J. Schaefer, new chairman of the board of the company, at the Sherry-Netherlands Hotel here.

Among those present were Malcolm Kingsberg, Si Fabian, Colvin Brown, Harry Buckley, Barry Buchanan, Terry Ramsaye, Red Kann, Sherwin Kane, Al Margolies, Dave Epstein, Jack Harrison, Al Steen, James Jerauld, Bernard Kreisler, William Pierce, Herb Berg, James Dunn, William White, Leon Netter, Paul Harvey, Herman Schleier, Mori Krushen, Martin Starr and Major Orton Hicks.

Reisman Reports on French Film Trade

A meeting of the MPPDA foreign department heads' group was held here yesterday at the Harvard Club. Phil Reisman, RKO Radio vice-president in charge of foreign sales, who recently returned from abroad, delivered a talk on recent developments in the French film industry.

Worden a V-P

Howard T. Worden, manager of the motion picture division of Foote, Cone and Belding, New York, has been elected a vice-president of the agency. Accounts served by this division are: RKO Radio, RKO Theatres of New York, Selznick-Vanguard Films, Disney Productions and Pathe News.

Worden has been in the agency field for most of the past 13 years, after starting in the theatre business.

Navy Making Films For Seventh Loan

WASHINGTON, March 21. — The Navy will produce five three to five minute 'impact' trailers and two 16 mm short subjects to be used as War Bond sales incentives during the forthcoming Seventh War Loan Drive, it has been announced by J. Edward Shugrue, director of the motion picture and special events section of the War Finance Division of the Treasury.

The films will be completed by April 5. The first short is "Midnight," and deals with elements of the fleet stationed at Greenwich, England, preparing for the next day's battle; and the second is "Remember These Faces," which shows the wounded in an invasion in the Pacific.

The first of the trailers, "The Voice of Truth," shows Marines hurrying to an invasion and records their reactions to Jap propaganda; "Time For Sale" shows the privations of American prisoners in the Philippines; "Mission Completed" shows the flight deck of a carrier after a raid; "This Could Be America" shows what might happen if the enemy attacked the United States, while the last film has not as yet been identified.

The Army, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are also preparing a series of films in an effort to attract far more than the 23,000,000 persons who saw the Treasury pictures during the last drive.

Seeley Ill, Murray Suit Off to Mar. 28

CHICAGO, March 21. — Due to the illness of Miles Seeley, attorney for the defense, the hearing of a motion to vacate recent orders issued by Federal Judge William H. Holly in the Thomas A. Murray conspiracy case against distributors and others has been postponed again, this time to March 28.

The motions include the dismissal of the remaining distributor defendants in the case, 20th Century-Fox and Loew's, and the granting of a new trial for the other defendants.

Phila. Variety Club To Aid City's Youth

PHILADELPHIA, March 21. — Local Variety Club, Tent No. 13, will participate in operation of the Mahlon Lewis Community Center in the interest of the youth of the city, in the prevention of delinquency, crime, and in the promotion of inter-racial relationship and goodwill. The club will sponsor the Center, and will purchase equipment for its gymnasium and tools for craft shops. In addition it will pay for club leaders and personnel necessary to operate the Center for at least a year. This part of the program will cost about $7,500.

Three Airwave Breaks

Twentieth Century-Fox's 30th anniversary will receive three more airwave breaks this week, the first tonight, over WABC and 81 CBS stations, for "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn."

Both of the others will be on Sunday, the first over WEAF and 135 NBC stations, for "Captain Eddie" and the second, over WABC and 130 CBS stations for "A Royal Scandal."

Short Subject Review

"Cap'n Cub"

(Film Classics—Ted Eschbaugh)

A flying bear who rallies his flying animal colleagues against an air invasion by the Japs and, with ridiculous ease, succeeds in shooting them down is the subject matter of this cartoon. It is good for some laughs. Film Classisc is distributing. Running time, nine minutes.

Drama Guild to Hold Meet on Court Ruling

As a result of the Circuit Court ruling that its basic agreement constitutes a restraint of trade in violation of the Sherman Act, the Dramatists Guild is currently refusing to counter-sign any sale of film rights for any legitimate production. Officials of the Guild told MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday that no official action would be taken until the next council meeting set for next week.

New York attorneys, questioned on the effect of the court ruling, stated it will have to wait until the courts have decided which phases of the basic agreement are in violation of the Sherman laws. They were unanimously agreed that no court decision would affect any sale consummated in the past, and pointed out what is considered to be an error on the part of the court in making its ruling. It is said that if labor unions may organize with minimum basic agreements, then playwrights, who are intellectual laborers, may do the same thing through the agency of the Guild.

RKO Video to Film Blue V-E Activity

RKO Television Corp. has been selected by the Blue Network to 'cover' the Blue's 'V-E Day' news room activities in New York. Activities will be filmed and rushed to DuMont television station WABD here for immediate telecasting.

Announcing the completion of arrangements, Ralph B. Austrian, executive vice-president of RKO Television Corp., yesterday pointed out that a crew of camera men will be on call so that the minute the news breaks, they will set up thier equipment regardless of the hour. This is the first time, Austrian stated, that television has set itself up to give 'priority service' to news events. Paul Mowrey, Blue Network television director, will be coordinator.

Schiffrin Ready for Paris Trip on Films

Simon Schiffrin, head of the films division of the French Press and Information Service, will leave this week for a six-weeks' trip to Paris, to confer on mutual film problems of the French and American industries with Jean Painleve, French film committee head, and the French Minister of Information.

Schiffrin told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that films dubbed here in French before last Jan. 1 will be admitted to France despite a law on the books that most dubbing must be done in France. Almost 100 films have been dubbed here, most of which are expected to receive French distribution.

*EVERYBODY'S FIXIN' UP FOR

Paramount's Easter Parade

OF GIRLS AND SONGS AND STARS

In Technicolor

*INCLUDING 198 KEY HOUSES COAST-TO-COAST

"Bring on"

Starring

Veronica Lake

AS A SUPER-CIGARETTE GIRL!

Sonny Tufts

HE SINGS—AND PLAYS—AND GOOD!

Eddie Bracken

NEW RAVE OF THE AIR WAVES

Marjorie Reynolds

REPEATING HER "HOLIDAY INN" DANCING TRIUMPH

Everything Points to
Paramount's
Biggest Musical
Success Since "Star
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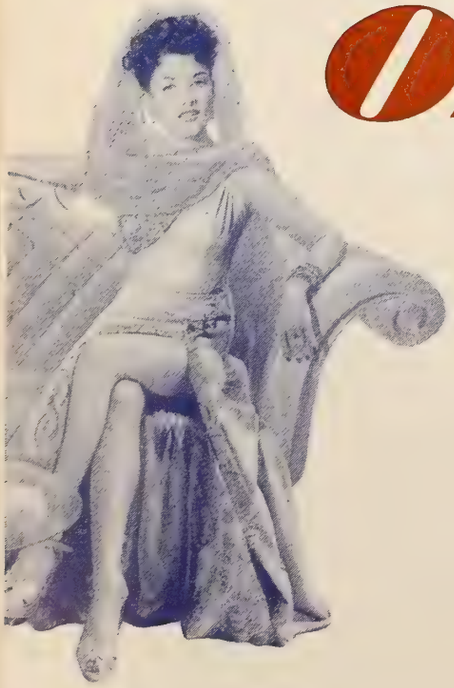
KNOCKOUT IN FIRST TEST AT N. Y. PARAMOUNT
ADVERTISED IN FULL COLOR IN COAST-TO-COAST KEYS
MOST LAVISH CHORUS PRODUCTION NUMBERS SINCE "RHYTHM"
SPIKE JONES' "CHLOE" BAND ACT WILL HAVE THE WHOLE TOWN TALKING
DANCING FIND JOHNNY COY WILL HAVE THE FOLKS A-STARING
GIRLS! GIRLS! GIRLS! LOADS OF LUSCIOUS LOVELIES
SONG HITS THAT WILL HIT THE HIT PARADE

"Bring on the Girls"

in Technicolor



with JOHNNY COY, PETER WHITNEY,
ALAN MOWBRAY, PORTER HALL,
SPIKE JONES AND HIS ORCHESTRA

Directed by

SIDNEY LANFIELD

Screen Play by Karl Tunberg and Darrell Ware

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

WLB Orders Ending of Coast Strike

(Continued from page 1)

by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor and the presidents of the two international unions were unsuccessful. This was followed by the appointment of Thomas Tongue as arbitrator last January and an award, after hearings, on February 17.

"Petitions for review of the award have been filed with the board by the producers and Local 44 of the IATSE," the wire continued. "The petitions were on the board's agenda the week of March 12 for preliminary determination as to whether or not the award presented a review-able issue. Your union engaged in a work stoppage during that week, thereby preventing the board from acting."

The board pointed out that it advised the parties that it would not take action on the petitions while a strike was in progress, and President Lindelof ordered the strikers to return to work on March 13. These instructions not having been followed, the board invoked the powers vested in it by the President to order the strike terminated immediately.

Seizure Question

Board officials refused to state what action might be taken in the event its order was disregarded, but usually in such cases the parties are called for a conference. The only sanction it can impose is Government seizure of the plant, which is conditioned upon an interference with war production, and there was some question as to whether the studio situation would come in that category.

The board also called upon the leaders of the unions asking them to cooperate in bringing an early end to the strike. Telegrams were sent to Harvey Brown, president of the International Association of Machinists, Edward J. Brown, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, John Rooney, president of the International Association of Plasters and Cement Finishers, and to William L. Hutcheson, president of the Carpenters and Joiners Union, all AFL. They read: "The board is requesting full assistance and cooperation in directing the members of the unions to return to work immediately so that full production may be restored. Your assistance to this end will be appreciated."

Curb Commercials on NBC Air Newscasts

Elimination of "middle" commercial announcements from all news broadcasts of National Broadcasting in order to render more rapid presentation of vital news, was announced by Niles Trammell, NBC president.

The company has asked all sponsors to cooperate to make the revision effective immediately. RKO has a regular 11 P.M. news program on WEAF, New York outlet of NBC, on Saturday nights, and will be hit by this new rule since the company has used about two middle commercials weekly to promote local showings of its films.

Review

"The Clock"

(M-G-M)

ANY vehicle in which the talented Judy Garland appears rates attention. "The Clock," however, rates pause beyond the usual since this is Judy's first straight dramatic effort. She does not sing a single note.

The changeover in type of story must have given the powers at M-G-M sufficient reason for weighty deliberation, for reasons which are obvious. The long and short of it is, however, that the leap from musical to drama bears all evidence of successful negotiation. For "The Clock" has charm sweetness, heart tug and wholesomeness and emerges with pronounced satisfaction in an area not before attempted by its star. How much of Judy as future dramatic actress and how much in the type of part with which she is so popularly identified probably will be gauged by the box-office fate which her new attraction meets.

There should not be much question about the departure. Miss Garland reveals genuine capabilities in a serious role, but the fact also to be remembered is she has been indicating this in those serious interludes long since sandwiched into her musicals.

Aiding her, but also standing on his own, is Robert Walker as romantic foil. The boyish charm which is one of his principal assets is on ample display as the shy soldier from Indiana who lands in New York for the first time from a Maryland camp with 48 bewildered hours on his hands. In the rushing stream of the metropolis, accident crosses his path. But accident happens to carry the name of Judy Garland. He is attracted to her at once, the more because he is engulfed by the big town than for any other reason. It becomes merely a matter of hours before the attraction takes on size. She is cautious at the outset; then she, too, begins to think he is quite a fellow.

They visit museums, ride on busses, look down on the Hudson from Riverside Drive, get good-naturedly involved with James Gleason, milkman, and spend the night delivering his goods. By daylight, neither boy nor girl wants the other to get away. One of the poignant sequences in a film full of poignant and pleasant passages finds them losing each other and in a frenzied scramble to find one another again. They do, of course, but what this does is to prove it's love that's got them. Their mad rush to get license, blood test and court dispensation to marry before passage of the 72 hours demanded by New York law follows, and thereafter, their one-night of honeymooning. The next morning sees Walker returning to camp and Judy at the train to speed a reluctant departure, confident their new life together is interrupted only temporarily by the war.

Story content is slim, but it is not so much what happens as how it happens. This is where the screenplay, by Robert Nathan and Joseph Schrank, working off a story by Paul and Pauline Gallico, and where the sensitive direction of Vincente Minnelli cuts such effective swaths. Caught, too, are the spirit and the vibrancy of the city as well as its size and its capacity for both lonesomeness and happiness. In that respect alone "The Clock" is one of the best translations of the mood of New York that Hollywood has ever achieved. And, while this is a Garland-Walker vehicle, the Gleasons—Jimmy and Lucile—and Keenan Wynn aid with small, but, competent, support. Arthur Freed produced.

Running time, 90 mins. General audience classification. Release date not set.

RED KANN

Dr. Smith Now RCA Research Associate

Dr. Lloyd Preston Smith, professor of physics at Cornell University, has been appointed associate research director of RCA Laboratories, Princeton, N. J., it was announced by F. W. Engstrom, RCA research director, filling the vacancy caused by the death last July of B. J. Thompson, who was killed in action during a flight in an Army airplane in the Mediterranean area while on a special mission for the Office of the Secretary of War.

Since February, 1941, Dr. Smith has been associated with RCA Laboratories as a research consultant.

New Trans-Lux Unit

ALBANY, N. Y., March 21.—Trans-Lux Madison Corp. has been incorporated to operate a theatrical business in New York. Incorporators are: Norman W. Elson, Percival E. Furber, George H. Eichelberger, all New York.

Promotes Verseput

Pierre C. Verseput, transmitter supervisor of radio station WMCA, New York, has become chief engineer of the station, replacing Frank Knaack who resigned recently to become chief engineer of WLIB.

Quebec Enforcing Child-Barring Law

(Continued from page 1)

lation of the license of the Palace Theatre, Verdun, which, he said, had been found guilty of violating the measure.

"We warn all theatre owners that they have to respect the law," said Duplessis. "If they want to violate it, they will force us to take additional measures. If the present law does not suffice, we shall institute new legislation in order to have the Quebec laws respected."

Attendance by children in the province was made illegal following a disasterous fire in which the lives of numerous youngsters were lost.

The Palace, belonging to Rank's Odeon circuit, is managed by Howard Elliott, who did not deny the violation but said: "The children are being penalized for an incident for which they were not at all responsible." Elliott is an active worker in the Verdun Lion's Club's effort to stamp out juvenile delinquency and said he felt that, by providing especially-suited weekend film programs for youngsters, he was doing his share toward this end—entertaining them in a well-supervised, fireproof building.

The Quebec children's prohibition law is now being subjected to a court test.

Sorrell Says 'No' to U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

Relations Board. The producers have pledged compliance with such a decision."

Speaking for president James F. Walsh, IATSE international vice-president Roy Brewer said: "The War Labor Board echoes our position precisely. Whatever Sorrell does, we will continue to supply all the workmen necessary to keep the studios in production."

Earlier in the day the CSU strategy committee passed a resolution designed to fortify IATSE workmen refusing to perform struck work, as ordered by Walsh, declaring: "CSU will not allow its members to go back to work until all persons who were in the studios as of March 9, who left their jobs in support of us, return to work also, without discrimination or loss of seniority." Passage of the resolution followed a walkout of IATSE property men at the Paramount studio when they were asked to do carpenter work.

Main and Dale Quit Odeon for Fingold

(Continued from page 1)

Sam Fingold of Toronto for operation of the latter's Ontario theatre circuit, with Fingold turning attention to his other isterests.

Main has been headoffice theatre supervisor, and Dale was chief booker of Odeon. Severance of their connection with Paul Nathanson has been done in an atmosphere of complete cordiality.

This break follows the recent resignation of Haskell Masters as general manager of Canadian Odeon, but that was said to have no connection with the latest development. No successor yet has been appointed to Masters, who now is holidaying in Florida.

Dale was for many years with Famous Players and left with the late N. L. Nathanson four years ago, while Main was chief supervisor of Hanson Theatres Corp. until the latter was absorbed by Famous Players.

Honor for Rapper

Presentation of a 'certificate of achievement' by Tau Delta Phi Fraternity to Irving Rapper, Warner director, for having "continuously sought to advance the social and moral standards of the motion picture industry," will take place in New York next Tuesday while Rapper is in New York from the Coast for the world premiere of "The Corn Is Green" at the Hollywood Theater, here.

Casanave Gets Selznicks

Charles L. Casanave, president of Casanave-Artlee Pictures, has acquired the U. S. distribution of David O. Selznick's "Prisoner of Zenda", "Garden of Allah" and "Adventures of Tom Sawyer," from Ray Lewis of Jayell Films. Casanave will announce plans of distribution in a few days. He has left for Chicago for a conference with a group of state-right exchange men.

THE FIRST FILM PRODUCED JOINTLY BY ALL BRANCHES OF THE SERVICE

THE COMPLETE RECORD OF AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT!

"Show it, Mister Showman

we want the folks back home to see what we're going through - and why we've all got to stay on the job day and night! Nine of my cameraman buddies were killed or wounded filming this picture --

A 2-REEL SUBJECT FURNISHED GRATIS

SCREEN IT NOW!

Thanks!"

Produced by **THE UNITED STATES ARMY** ★ **THE UNITED STATES NAVY** ★ **THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

Released through **THE OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION**

Distributed by **WARNER BROS.** for **THE WAR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE,** Motion Picture Industry

Independents' Stock Wants Exceed Supply

(*Continued from page* 1)

the committee are understood to have declined the responsibility of the positions.

Stanley Adams, head of the Consumers Durable Goods Division of WPB, is expected to announce specific allocations for independents either late this week or early next week. Representatives of independent producers including James Mulvey, Samuel Goldwyn Productions; Al Schwalberg, International Pictures; Roy Disney and Walker conferred individually with Adams in Washington on Monday and Tuesday. They discussed their own specific raw stock needs but were given no indication what their allocations would be.

The general feeling is that old established independents will be allocated sufficient raw stock to meet their needs as indicated by their yearly records over a period of years but there will be little likelihood of their being able to increase the number of films they have been producing annually. On the other hand, other applicants for raw stock are not expected to find sufficient supplies available to meet their requirements, since allocations are expected to be based on previous usage. Newer producers under the United Artists banner like Jack H. Skirball and Andrew Stone are not expected to fare as well as Edward Small and Sol Lesser.

Some Approach 285

Producer representatives who have conferred with Adams have discussed their needs on the basis of previous use of raw stock which includes both foreign and domestic printing. Some producers have approached the 285-print limit, but others have ordered only a minimum number of prints. While some opposition is understood to have developed to Adams' handling of the situation, most of the producer representatives are understood to feel that he is proceeding in the right direction. One paid particular tribute to Adams' attempt to secure as much raw stock as possible for the industry by thoroughly studying inventories and usage of raw stock by the Armed Forces and other Government agencies.

George J. Schaefer, industry liaison with the WPB on raw stock, reported yesterday that 15,000,000 feet of surplus raw stock over six months old had been located in Army supplies and would be made available to the industry. Of this, approximately three million feet will serve or compensate for allocations to Government agencies and the newsreels for coverage of the San Francisco United Nations meeting, for which that amount has already been requested by the Government. The balance will be made available to the industry.

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Bowles' Renewed Ceiling Plea Is Received Coolly

(*Continued from page* 1)

showed a big jump in admission levels since May, 1942.

Sharp questioning by Senators Downey, California and Taft, Ohio, also elicited from Bowles admissions that he had not checked on the increase in admissions since 1937 and so did not know whether they were out of line with the general increase in the cost of living, also that he had not considered extensions of control to newspapers which, Taft pointed out, have increased their prices two-thirds and more. Bowles also agreed that the public expenditure for newspapers and reading matter generally is but little less than that for theatre admissions, 1.3 per cent of the cost-of-living index, against 1.7 per cent.

Tobey Lone Encouragement

Bowles' only encouragement came from Senator Tobey, New Hampshire, whose comment that pictures were 'more mediocre' than ever and that many of the high-salaried stars were in military service, so that pictures should cost less instead of more, appeared to be intended more as a slap at the industry than any promise of support for control.

Repeating the charges he made in his letter last week, to Senator Wagner that admissions have increased 31.1 per cent, Bowles was promptly challenged by Senator Downey, who declared that California theatres have not increased their prices and while about 20 theatres in New York may have done so, industry figures indicate that 1944 admissions were approximately at the same level as in 1943.

"Evidence submitted to me seems to show there has been substantially no increase in film theatre prices in the past several years," Downey declared, suggesting that the statisticians may have taken the total theatre receipts and divided them by the number of persons going into the theatres in figuring out admission prices, not taking into account the fact that more people now are attending the higher-priced houses than in May, 1942.

Would Exempt Some

Bowles contended that if an exhibitor had not increased his admissions unduly he had nothing to fear from price control, explaining that "if we were given the power to move ahead, first of all we would see whether the increase is noteworthy up to now. If there is evidence of people taking advantage of the situation to ask exorbitant theatre prices, we would go in," he added.

The OPA administrator charged that high admissions chiefly burden the families of men in the military service and the white-collar group whose income increase has not kept pace with the rising cost of living, but Taft asserted the cost of living has increased 127 per cent since 1937 and suggested Bowles had better find out whether admissions had risen correspondingly.

The reputed 31 per cent increase in admissions since 1942, he admitted to Downey is really a net increase of only 21 per cent by reason of increased taxes, and he agreed with the California Senator that the actual increase might even be less when raises in sales and municipal taxes are taken into account.

Asked by Taft what he considered a 'substantial' increase, Bowles found it to be only five or eight per cent, but he did not say what he considered the allowable maximum.

"I have already pointed out to the Committee that prices for motion pictuer admisions have increased to an extraordinary degree above prewar levels," Bowles said.

"Such increases as there have been in operating costs have been far more than offset by increased box office volume," he added. "Profits have risen to a new high. For example, the dollar profits of seven major motion picture producers, distributors and exhibitors increased 442.6 per cent in 1943 over the 1936-39 average. Their average annual profits in the prewar years were $31,984,000, or 7.1 per cent of the average annual sales of $453,111,000. In 1943 their profits were $173,539,000, or 23.2 per cent of sales of $746,740,000.

"It might be added that motion picture admissions have been effectively controlled in Canada. I am confident that they can be effectively controlled here and without imposing an undue administrative burden," Bowles declared.

Bowles said films cost the U. S. public $1,000,000,000 a year, as much as gasoline, motor oil, auto repairs, auto licenses and taxes combined. He also suggested curbing "stock market inflation".

RKO, Goetz-Spitz Renew for '45-'46

(*Continued from page* 1)

International's Gary Cooper Western, "Along Came Jones," with Loretta Young, directed by Stuart Heisler; "Tomorrow Is Forever" starring Claudette Colbert, Orson Welles and George Brent, produced by David Lewis and directed by Irving Pichel; and Sonja Henie's "Countess of Monte Cristo."

International pictures distributed during the current season by RKO are: "Casanova Brown," "The Woman in the Window," "Belle of the Yukon," and "It's A Pleasure," which will have its release at Easter time. "Casanova" will follow in July; "Tomorrow Is Forever" and "The Countess of Monte Cristo" will be released later.

Radio - Film Theatre Tieups Are Up 300%

(*Continued from page* 1)

had jumped sharply in the last few months. Growing tightness of the newspaper situation is credited as the principal reason.

Close to 350 theatres in principal cities already asked for "Hotel Berlin" transcriptions, although the picture is not yet in general release, and more than 300 requests have been received on each of three current films: "To Have and Have Not," "Roughly Speaking" and "Objective, Burma."

Requests also are coming in larger numbers from subsequent run exhibitors, especially circuits of subsequents.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Feb. 24	TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT (Color) Rita Hayworth Janet Blair Lee Bowman M—92 mins. (Rev. 1/25/45)	(Tenth Block) MAIN STREET AFTER DARK Edward Arnold Selena Royle D—56 mins. (514) (Rev. 11/28/44)	DILLINGER Elisha Cook Jr. Lawrence Tierney D—70 mins. (402) (Rev. 3/13/45)	(Third Block) HERE COME THE WAVES Bing Crosby Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts M—97 mins. (4411) (Rev. 12/18/44)	FOG ISLAND Lionel Atwill George Zucco D—72 mins. (Rev. 2/15/45)	SONG FOR MISS JULIE Shirley Ross Cheryl Walker M—69 mins. (411) (Rev. 2/20/45)	(Special) THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE (Goldwyn) (Color) Bob Hope Virginia Mayo C—94 mins. (551) (Rev. 10/11/44)	(Feb. Release) (Special Release) A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN Dorothy McGuire Joan Blondell D—128 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/24/45)			OBJECTIVE, BURMA Errol Flynn D—144 mins. (411) (Rev. 1/26/45)
Mar. 3	LEAVE IT TO BLONDIE Penny Singleton Arthur Lake C	MUSIC FOR MILLIONS Margaret O'Brien Jose Iturbi M—117 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/13/44)		DANGEROUS PASSAGE Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4412) (Rev. 12/21/44)	THE MAN WHO WALKED ALONE Dave O'Brien Kay Aldridge O—74 mins. (Rev. 2/2/45)	SHERIFF OF CIMARRON Sunset Carson Linda Stirling O—55 mins. (454) (Rev. 2/7/45)	(Special Release) BELLE OF THE YUKON (International) (Color) Randolph Scott Gypsy Rose Lee Dinah Shore C—84 mins. (583) (Rev. 11/29/44)	HANGOVER SQUARE Laird Cregar Linda Darnell D—77 mins. (516) (Rev. 1/17/45)		FRISCO SAL Susanna Foster Turhan Bey M—94 mins. (9012) (Rev. 2/16/45)	
Mar. 10	A SONG TO REMEMBER (Color) Paul Muni Merle Oberon Cornel Wilde D—113 mins. (Rev. 1/18/45)	BLONDE FEVER Philip Dorn Mary Astor C—69 mins. (516) (Rev. 11/28/44)		FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS (Color) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—158 mins. (4413) (Rev. 7/15/43)						SUDAN (Color) Maria Montez Jon Hall Turhan Bey D—76 mins. (9006) (Rev. 3/1/45)	ROUGHLY SPEAKING Rosalind Russell Jack Carson D—117 mins. (412) (Rev. 1/26/45)
Mar. 17	THE CRIME DOCTOR'S COURAGE Warner Baxter D—70 mins. (Rev. 3/8/45)	THIS MAN'S NAVY Wallace Beery James Gleason D—100 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/4/45)	GI HONEY-MOON Gale Storm Peter Cookson D—70 mins. (406) (Rev. 3/1/45)	PRACTICALLY YOURS Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray C—90 mins. (4414) (Rev. 12/15/44)		UTAH Roy Rogers George (Gabby) Hayes Dale Evans M—78 mins. (441) (Rev. 3/12/45)	(Special Release) THE THREE CABALLEROS (Disney) (Color) M—71 mins. (591) (Rev. 12/12/44)	THUNDERHEAD SON OF FLICKA Roddy McDowall Preston Foster O—78 mins. (518) (Rev. 2/1/45)			
Mar. 24	A GUY, A GAL AND A PAL Ross Hunter Lynn Merrick D (Rev. 3/16/45)	BETWEEN TWO WOMEN Van Johnson Lionel Barrymore D—81 mins. (518) (Rev. 12/21/44)	DOCKS OF NEW YORK East Side Kids C—62 mins. (410) (Rev. 2/21/45)	DOUBLE EXPOSURE Chester Morris Nancy Kelly D—63 mins. (4415) (Rev. 12/21/44)		THE GREAT FLAMARION Eric von Stroheim Mary Beth Hughes D—78 mins. (412) (Rev. 1/23/45)	(Third Block) WHAT A BLONDE Leon Errol Elaine Riley C—71 mins. (511) (Rev. 1/29/45)	CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE Lloyd Nolan Michael O'Shea D—67 mins. (519) (Rev. 2/15/45)		THE HOUSE OF FEAR Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce D—69 mins. (9025) (Rev. 3/20/45)	HOTEL BERLIN Faye Emerson Helmut Dantine Raymond Massey D—98 mins. (413) (Rev. 3/2/45)
Mar. 31	ROUGH RIDIN' JUSTICE Chas. Starrett Betty Jane Graham (Rev. 3/20/45)	NOTHING BUT TROUBLE Laurel and Hardy C—69 mins. (519) (Rev. 12/5/44)			STRANGE ILLUSION Jimmy Lydon Warren William D—87 mins. (Rev. 2/21/45)	IDENTITY UNKNOWN Richard Arlen Cheryl Walker D—71 mins. (414)	THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE Dorothy McGuire Robert Young Herbert Marshall D—92 mins. (515) (Rev. 2/14/45)				
April 6	ROUGH, TOUGH AND READY Victor McLaglen Chester Morris D—66 mins.	KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY Lana Turner Laraine Day D—123 mins. (520) (Rev. 2/15/45)	THERE GOES KELLY Jackie Moran Wanda McKay C—61 mins. (422) (Rev. 3/8/45)	(Fourth Block) BRING ON THE GIRLS (Color) Veronica Lake Sonny Tufts Eddie Bracken M—92 mins. (4416) (Rev. 2/19/45)	CRIME, INC. Leo Carrillo Tom Neal D (Rev. 2/7/45)		HAVING WONDERFUL CRIME George Murphy Pat O'Brien Carole Landis C—70 mins. (514) (Rev. 2/16/45)	THE SONG OF BERNADETTE Jennifer Jones Charles Bickford D—156 mins. (520) (Rev. 12/22/43)	(The following completed productions are scheduled for early release but definite dates have not been set.)		GOD IS MY CO-PILOT Dennis Morgan Andrea King D—89 mins. (414) (Rev. 2/21/45)
April 13	ESCAPE IN THE FOG Otto Kruger Nina Foch D		FASHION MODEL Robert Lowery Marjorie Weaver C—61 mins. (423)	THE UNSEEN Joel McCrea Gail Russell Herbert Marshall D—81 mins. (4417) (Rev. 2/20/45)	SHADOWS OF DEATH Buster Crabbe O (Rev. 1/25/44)		PAN-AMERICANA Phillip Terry Audrey Long Robert Benchley D—84 mins. (513) (Rev. 2/21/45)	A ROYAL SCANDAL Tallulah Bankhead Anne Baxter William Eythe D—94 mins. (521) (Rev. 3/21/45)		I'LL REMEMBER APRIL Gloria Jean Kirby Grant M—64 mins.	
April 20	ROCKING IN THE ROCKIES Three Stooges Mary Beth Hughes O		CRAZY KNIGHTS Billy Gilbert Maxie Rosenbloom C—63 mins. (421) (Rev. 1/15/45)	SALTY O'ROURKE Alan Ladd Gail Russell D—100 mins. (4418) (Rev. 2/23/45)	HOLLYWOOD AND VINE James Ellison Wanda McKay C—58 mins. (Rev. 3/8/45)		BETRAYAL FROM THE EAST Lee Tracy Nancy Kelly D—82 mins. (512) (Rev. 2/19/45)	MOLLY AND ME Gracie Fields Monty Woolley C—76 mins. (522) (Rev. 3/8/45)	BREWSTER'S MILLIONS (Rev. 3/12/45)	SONG OF THE SARONG William Gargan Nancy Kelly C	
April 27	EVE KNEW HER APPLES Ann Miller William Wright		CISCO KID RETURNS Duncan Renaldo O—64 mins. (429)	HIGH POWERED Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4419) (Rev. 2/21/45)	THE PHANTOM OF 42nd STREET Dave O'Brien Kay Aldrich D		(Special Release) THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW Edward Robinson Joan Bennett D—99 mins. (582) (Rev. 10/10/44)		DELIGHTFULLY DANGEROUS (Rev. 2/26/45)	SALOME—WHERE SHE DANCED (Walter Wanger) (Color) Yvonne de Carlo David Bruce M	THE HORN BLOWS AT MIDNIGHT Jack Benny C
May 4	THE POWER OF THE WHISTLER Richard Dix Janis Carter D				ENEMY OF THE LAW Dave O'Brien Tex Ritter O—59 mins. (Rev. 3/9/45)		(Special Release) IT'S A PLEASURE International (Color) Sonja Henie Michael O'Shea 90 mins (584) (Rev. 2/27/45)		IT'S IN THE BAG (Rev. 2/9/45)	PATRICK THE GREAT Donald O'Connor Peggy Ryan C	
	RETURN OF THE DURANGO KID Charles Starrett Tex Harding O								COLONEL BLIMP (Rev. 6/9/43)		
	COUNTER-ATTACK Paul Muni Marguerite Chapman D										
	YOU CAN'T DO WITHOUT LOVE Vera Lynn Donald Stewart M										

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D), Drama

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 57 | NEW YORK, U. S. A., FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1945 | TEN CENTS

Ten Films Are Scoring Well In 14 Cities

'Tree Grows in Brooklyn' Continues To Hold Lead

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

"A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" held the lead for the third consecutive week in MOTION PICTURE DAILY's reports of estimated box office receipts from 14 key cities, excluding New York City, for the week ended March 22.

It did outstanding business in initial weeks in Boston, Chicago, Buffalo and in two Denver theatres; it continued strong in second weeks in Baltimore and Indianapolis; and it drew excellent receipts in third weeks in three Los Angeles theatres and in Pittsburgh and Cincinnati. A spell of unseasonably warm weather in many sections of the country, and Spring rains in others, combined with

(*Continued on page* 7)

Actors' Move On Video Due

The joint television committee of the Screen Actors Guild, Actors Equity and the American Federation of Radio Artists, set up over a year ago to study wage scales and working conditions for actors working in television is expected soon to be called upon to act after remaining dormant since its formation. What move is made will depend upon the action taken by the television committee of Actors Equity, which earlier this week

(*Continued on page* 11)

Walsh Eastbound in Move to End Strike

HOLLYWOOD, March 22.—The studio strike continued status quo today, with representatives of all factions expecting it to last over the weekend at least.

Meanwhile the likelihood of president Richard F. Walsh and other IATSE international officers flying to New York or Washington, probably tomorrow, to attempt to persuade international officers of the striking locals to order their members back to work, took on the semblance of cer-

(*Continued on page* 11)

IATSE to Negotiate New Wage Boost for 3,000 in Exchanges

The IATSE plans to start negotiations with home office executives in about a month on a new contract for some 3,000 film exchange "white collar" workers in 30-odd exchange cities, seeking to institute a system of automatic progression wage increases and provide better than 10 per cent wage increases.

The negotiations will follow approval by Regional War Labor Boards of a system of job classifications with minimum and maximum wage scales and minimum 10 per cent wage increases under a contract which expired Dec. 1, 1943, and which has been extended until a new contract is negotiated. Regional Boards have already handed down decisions cover-

(*Continued on page* 11)

25% Budget Cut for Censorship Office

WASHINGTON, March 22.—A cut of approximately 25 per cent would be made in the 1945-46 appropriation of the U. S. Office of Censorship—which censors films and other media going abroad, and for which $19,150,000 is asked, with the cut made pos-

(*Continued on page* 12)

Order 15% British Cut in Raw Stock

London, March 22. — The British Board of Trade officially has informed the Kinematograph Renters Society that the raw stock ration for the next two months will be cut by 15 per cent, as forecast in *Motion Picture Daily* on March 13; it is hoped, however, to restore part of this cut after May 15.

At first, only a five or 10 per cent cut was contemplated when Hugh Dalton, BOT president, told the Commons that Britain's demands for stock exceeded the supply by 100,000,000 feet, but the shortage later was found to be still more severe.

Independents Seek Raw Stock Formula

The National Association of Motion Picture Independents, meeting here yesterday, appointed a subcommittee, headed by Nat Sanders of English Films, to work out a formula for redress of hardships sustained by individual members as the resut of raw stock allocations by the War Production Board. This subcommittee will then present its findings, informally, before Stanley Adams, head of

(*Continued on page* 10)

50% Increase In British Money Quota

New Provisions Subject To Three Conditions

By PETER BURNUP

LONDON, March 22.—An increase of fifty per cent in the monetary quota provisions of the Films Act has been ordered by the British Government, with the revised quota relating only to distributors adopting a monetary-footage basis.

Under the terms of the order, deficiencies in the value of British films acquired for exhibition here may be offset by acquiring, for an appropriate amount, British films for exhibition in America, provided, first, that labor costs of $12 per foot shall be paid on pictures exhibited in Britain; secondly, that such costs aggregate the equivalent of at least four dollars per

(*Continued on page* 10)

MGM Grooms 27 for '45-46

M-G-M has 27 properties presently being written, being cast, or waiting to be filmed, all for 1945-46.

The company is uncertain, because of the raw stock shortage, how many films will be released in 1944-45; in the preceding season, 33 were released. The 27 follow:

"Green Dolphin Street," by Eliza-

(*Continued on page* 6)

Curfew Needs Act of Congress: LaGuardia

Despite the move of theatres and other places of amusement in New York City to stand by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes on the midnight curfew, Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, speaking last night over a nationwide hookup of the Blue Network, reaffirmed his position in allowing an hour's 'tolerance,' until one

(*Continued on page* 10)

Films Get Free Ad Space Which Cannot be Bought

Millions of lines annually of free newspaper space lineage that is ordinarily unobtainable by purchase due to advertising space rationing, is being made available to film companies to advertise their pictures in promotional tie-ups with department stores, booksellers and other local newspaper advertisers, an investigation by MOTION PICTURE DAILY reveals.

While film companies have always been able to arrange advertising tie-ups with 'outside' advertisers, the rationing of newspaper space has led to greater emphasis being placed in individual cities to promote local promotions of films.

Companies have been able to make hundreds of tie-ups with local advertisers particularly on films having

(*Continued on page* 10)

WLB Still Awaits Strikers' Reply

Washington, March 22. — War Labor Board officials, here, tonight said they had not yet received a response to their Wednesday telegram to the striking Conference of Studio Unions workers, in Hollywood, ordering them back to their jobs, although reports from Hollywood said that Herbert Sorrell, president of the Confrence, had rejected the order in a wire to the Board.

Pending receipt of Sorrell's reply, WLB officials refuse to comment on the situation, which they said had not changed in the past 24 hours.

Reviewed Today

Reviews of "The Randolph Family" and "Wait for Me" appear on page 10.

Personal Mention

E. K. O'SHEA, M-G-M Eastern sales manager, will return to New York late next week from Miami Beach.

•

LEON ROTH of United Artists advertising department, and MRS. ROTH are the parents of a six-pound boy born at the Manhattan General Hospital.

•

GEORGE A. DROULIA, of 20th Century-Fox's home office, left yesterday for Indianapolis, to take a post on the sales force, under manager G. T. LANDIS.

•

MITCHELL LEISEN, Paramount director, is expected here from Hollywood at the end of the month.

•

RUTH GILLIS of M-G-M returned to New York yesterday from Miami Beach.

•

FRANK SALLY of the RKO Atlanta branch is recovering from a lengthy illness.

•

RUTH LEWIS, of M-G-M's short subject department, is vacationing at Miami Beach.

•

TOM JONES, former M-G-M office manager in Atlanta, visited there recently.

•

H. M. BESSEY, Altec vice-president, has returned to New York from Minneapolis and Chicago.

•

BERNIE LEWIS, of 20th Century-Fox's home publicity department, is the father of a boy.

•

JACK GOETZ, vice-president of Du Art Laboratories, will leave today for the Coast.

•

NAT LEVY, RKO division manager, is visiting the Atlanta branch.

Final Warner Meet On Coast Tomorrow

LOS ANGELES, March 22.—Fifth and final Warner regional sales meeting, taking the place of this year's sales convention, will open Saturday morning at the Hotel Ambassador, here, and will continue through Sunday.

Charles Einfeld, director of advertising-publicity, will address one of the sessions and discuss coming product and special campaign plans. Roy Haines, Western and Southern division sales manager, will conduct the two-day conference, with attendance also including Henry Herbel, West Coast district manager, and the following branch managers: Fred Greenberg, Los Angeles; E. A. Bell, Denver; Al Oxtoby, Portland; William F. Gordon, Salt Lake City; Al Shmitken, San Francisco; Vete Stewart, Seattle; also: Western field exploitation staff, consisting of Sam Clark, Los Angeles; Allan Kohan, Seattle; Jack Leewood, Denver.

Warners Closes 1st Deal for Latin Films

Warners International has closed its first Spanish-dubbed film deal with the Operadora Circuit of 19 first and subsequent run houses in Mexico City, for the first group of 10 films.

The company will inaugurate its Latin-American program of dubbed films with the premiere of "To Have and Have Not" on March 31 at the Chapultepec, one of Mexico City's most recently constructed first-runs. Other dubbed films scheduled to play the Operadora circuit will be "Objective, Burma," "Roughly Speaking," "Hotel Berlin," "God Is My Co-Pilot" and others which have not yet been released for domestic distribution.

Warners is understood to be the second major company to launch distribution of a dubbing program in Latin-America, following M-G-M. Unlike Metro, which has centered its dubbing activities in New York, Warners does its synchronizing at its Coast studio.

Travis of MPSA Here For Raw Stock Talks

Merwin Travis, executive of the Motion Picture Society for the Americas, Hollywood, is in New York for conferences with heads of international departments of distributors. He will confer both in New York and in Washington on raw stock allotments to South American countries. In the Capitol he has already talked with Francis Alstock of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs.

Travis said that the request by the Mexican Government for an additional 5,000,000 feet of film for the making of six operatic features this Summer is under discussion in Washington now, but no decision had been made whether or not to grant the request.

Nine Jackter Aides On Montague Drive

A committee of nine sales executives has been established to assist Rube Jackter, chairman, in the supervision of the 'Montague 20th Anniversary Campaign,' which got under way March 16 and will continue for 15 weeks through June 28.

Those named are: Louis Weinberg, Louis Astor, M. J. Weisfeldt, H. C. Kaufman, George Josephs, Maurice Grad, Vincent Borelli, Seth Raisler and Sidney Singerman.

First Returns on R. C. Industry Drive

First returns of the industry's Red Cross War Fund Week, now current, exceed last year's quotas. St. Louis's 112 theatres collected $45,060. under the leadership of Harry Arthur, exhibitor chairman, and B. J. McCarthy, distributor chairman.

Warner Robins, in Georgia, with an over-all quota of $500, raised $586 in its one theatre, the Wellston, against last year's $359.

B. & K. in Tieup To Promote Television

CHICAGO, March 22.—WBKB, the Balaban and Katz television station, operating on a regular schedule Tuesdays through Fridays, and the Admiral Corp., local electronics and radio manufacturer, have concluded an arrangement to further television development in Chicago.

Starting in April, Admiral will take over two evening periods a week for a variety of experimental television shows, to be used for audience and reception checks as well as for actual instruction for radio dealers in television fundamentals, according to Richard A. Graver, Admiral vice-president in charge of the radio division.

Ida Mae Balaban, daughter of John Balaban, head of the Balaban and Katz Circuit, has become associated with WBKB.

Canada Seat Tax on

TORONTO, March 22.—There is no change in the schedule of royalty fees for 1945 to be collected by the Canadian Performing Right Society, Toronto, from theatre proprietors on a seating capacity basis but the organization has been authorized by the Dominion Government to impose fees totalling $141,672 from Canadian radio stations for the use of the repertoire of music compositions, compared with $138,310 in 1944. The Society had asked for $247,926 from radio broadcasters in the Dominion.

BMI (Canada) Limited was granted permission to collect $17,709 in fees from the radio stations, compared with $17,288 last year.

Lee to Salt Lake for Exhibitors' Meeting

Claude Lee, director of public relations for Paramount, left here yesterday for Salt Lake City where he will address the annual meeting of the Intermountain Theatres Association on Tuesday, at the Utah Hotel. Sam L. Gillette is president of the association.

Lee will also be the principal speaker at the city-wide civic luncheon on Monday, March 26, launching the annual Community Chest and National War Chest in Salt Lake City. Judge Hugo B. Anderson, director of the Salt Lake City Community Chest, extended the invitation to Lee.

Classics' Franchisers To Discuss Raw Stock

CHICAGO, March 22.—Franchise holders' committee of Film Classics will meet here at the Blackstone Monday and Tuesday to continue discussions of distribution, prints and accessories.

L. E. (Nick) Goldhammer, head of Film Classics, was here during the week on a tour of exchanges. He stated he would not participate in next week's meeting which he termed "strictly a franchise holder's" business session.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. and 6th Ave.
Spencer TRACY Katharine HEPBURN
"WITHOUT LOVE"
LUCILLE BALL
A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE &
The Music Hall's Great Easter Stage Show

STATE
ON SCREEN "PAN AMERICANA" PHILLIP TERRY AUDREY LONG
IN PERSON Tommy DIX Extra! Menasha SKULNIK

Paramount presents Veronica LAKE Sonny TUFTS Eddie Marjorie Brooken Reynolds "BRING on the GIRLS"
In Person The Ink Spots Ella Fitzgerald Buck & Bubbles Cootie Williams and his Orchestra
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Dick Powell
Claire Trevor - Anne Shirley
"Murder, My Sweet"
AN RKO RADIO PICTURE

SAMUEL GOLDWYN Presents
BOB HOPE
'THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE'
in Technicolor
Continuous Doors open 8:30 A.M.
ASTOR Broadway & 45th Street
Popular Prices

WALT DISNEY'S
'The THREE CABALLEROS'
in TECHNICOLOR
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
NOW - - - Brandt's GLOBE

BETTY SMITH'S
A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN
A 20TH CENTURY-FOX PICTURE
On Stage! A Gay, Springtime Revue
ROXY 7th Ave. & 50th St.

MARY O'HARA'S
"THUNDERHEAD"
in Technicolor
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
Doors open 6:30 A.M. VICTORIA Broadway & 46th St.

Samuel Shanfield Dies

Samuel Shanfield, 60, brother of Louis Shanfield, art department director of 20th Centrury-Fox, has died here.

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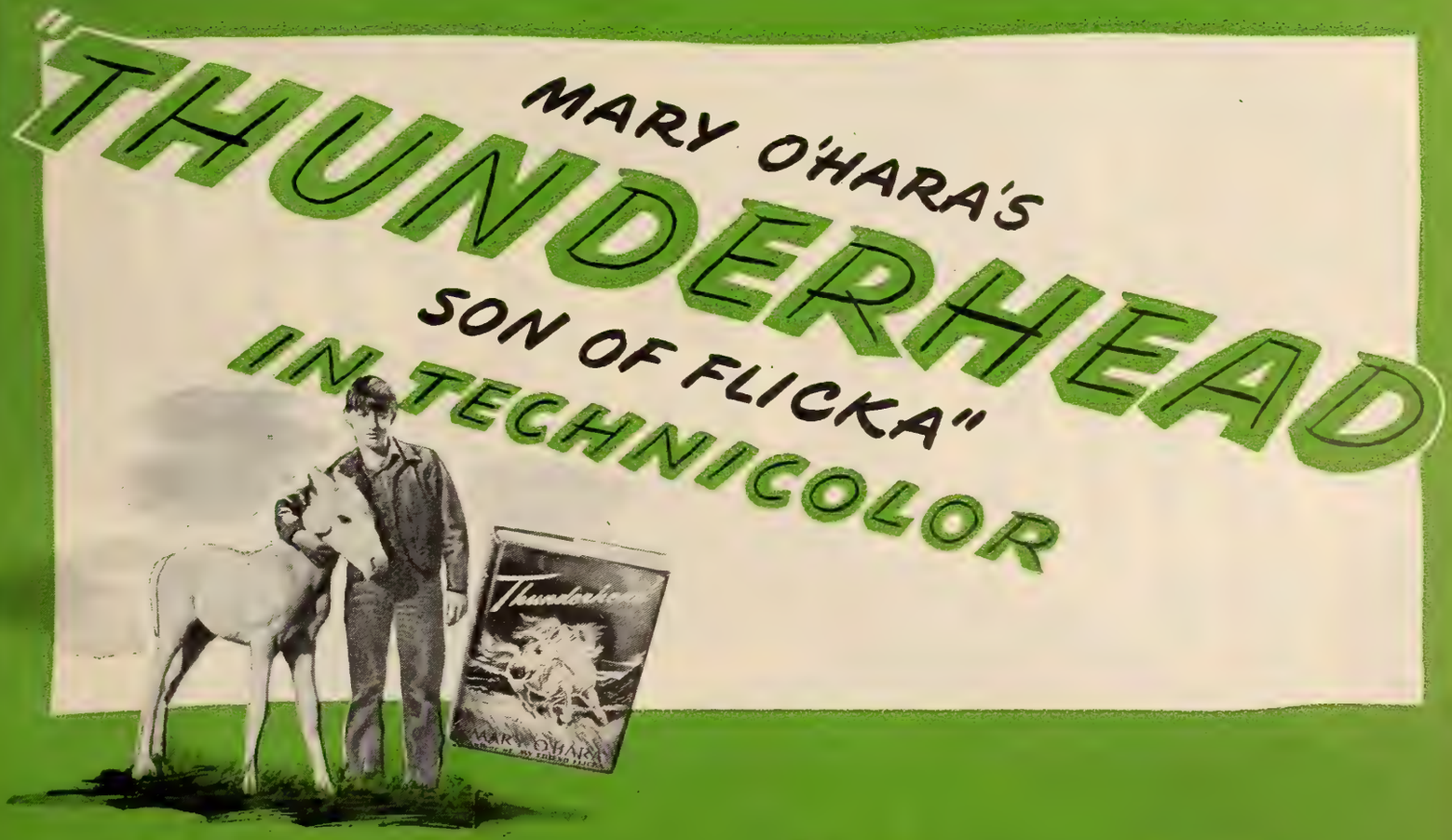
THE *CRITICS, THE **BOX-OFFICE AGREE THAT

HAS TOPPED 'MY FRIEND FLICKA' WITH



*M. P. Daily, Variety, The Exhibitor, Hollywood Reporter—everybody—says so!

‡Business actually 100% ahead of "My Friend Flicka" in city after city!

COLLECT AT EVERY SHOW! RED CROSS WEEK—MARCH 15-21

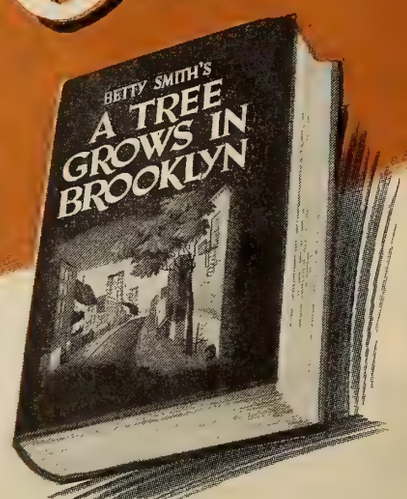
A BOX-OFFICE SENSATION THAT GROWS

AND GROWS

AND GROWS

BETTY SMITH'S

A TREE GROWS



Directed by
ELIA KAZAN

Produced by
LOUIS D. LIGHTON

GET CREDIT FOR YOUR RED CROSS COLLECTION.
SEND YOUR REPORT TO YOUR AREA CHAIRMAN

Celebrate in April!

NEW YORK—3rd SENSATIONAL WEEK at the Roxy!

PITTSBURGH—HELD OVER! Biggest 20th gross!

LOS ANGELES—HELD OVER! New record for 3 houses!

INDIANAPOLIS—HELD OVER! Bigger than "Coney Island"!

SAN FRANCISCO—HELD OVER! Second week topping first!

PORTLAND—HELD OVER! 140% of "Sweet Rosie O'Grady"!

MEMPHIS—HELD OVER! Top 20th gross for house!

IN BROOKLYN

SPRINGFIELD—HELD OVER! Far ahead of "Coney Island"!

CINCINNATI—MOVED OVER! Record for entire city!

MIAMI—MOVED OVER! Double the biggest 20th take!

WHEELING—Zooms past terrific "Winged Victory" high!

BALTIMORE—Leaves all biggest grossers far behind!

CENTURY-FOX

Three Decades of Entertainment Supremacy!

PRC Will Release 'The Silver Fleet'

The Powell - Pressburger British production, "The Silver Fleet," will be distributed in this country by PRC. Tradeshown here yesterday, the picture was reviewed in *Motion Picture Daily*, from London, on March 18.

The basic theme was described as centering around the sabotage and escapes organized against the Nazis by Hollanders, and said to be "sincere, vivid and factual," although being on the melodramatic side. About a reel has been cut from the original version; for this market the picture now runs 77 minutes.

Slesinger Forms Two 16mm. Companies

Introducing a new method of reproducing comics on film, publisher Steve Slesinger yesterday announced the formation of Telecomics, Inc., of New York, to produce both nationally-known syndicated and original comics for 16 mm. distribution and for television. Through vice-president Ros Metzger, Ruthrauff and Ryan, Chicago, has optioned programs for the first 26 weeks, of Telecomics products, to be televised by station WABD.

Slesinger also announced the formation of Telepictures, Inc., Hollywood, which will produce for 16 mm. distribution and television educational programs and also children's books in conjunction with Whitman Publishing Co., publisher of children's books. In addition, Telepictures will work with text book publishers, selecting from this material for film subjects.

Loew, W-K, Smalley, Switow Buy Mono.

HOLLYWOOD, March 22.—Eight additional circuits have signed for Monogram product for 1944-45, according to announcement by Steve Broidy, vice-president and general sales manager. They include: E. M. Loew Theatres, operating 20 houses in Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire; Wehrenberg - Kaimann Circuit, with nine situations in Missouri; Smalley's Theatres, with 12 in New York; and five units of the Switow Circuit in Indiana.

Other purchasers are William J. Schulte Circuit, with 13 theatres in Michigan; A. M. Ellis Theatres Co., seven in Philadelphia; Stein Circuit, seven in Florida and Georgia; and 22 situations of Co-operative Theatres of Michigan.

Honors Saperstein

ALBANY, N. Y., March 22.—Joseph Saperstein, who is marking his 40th year in the theatrical business, has won $750 in war bonds as the Fabian manager who showed the largest increase in business for his theatre, the Grand, over the previous year. S. H. Fabian, president of Fabian Theatres, and national exhibitor chairman of the WAC, made the award.

Parker Sherwood, manager of the Strand, Schenectady, has been given a $250 war bond by Fabian, head of the circuit, for topping the previous year's business and for clever exploitation.

Schnitzer, Berg To Canada Meet

United Artists Canadian branch managers will convene at the Mount Royal Hotel in Montreal for a two-day sales meeting on Monday and Tuesday. Edward M. Schnitzer, UA home office executive, will preside and will discuss sales plans and policies on both current and forthcoming product. Schnitzer will be accompanied by Barry Buchanan and Herbert Spencer Berg. Buchanan, director of advertising-publicity, will address and outline a merchandising campaign on new product.

Among the Canadian managers to attend the sessions will be J. H. Reid, Calgary; Charles S. Chaplin, Montreal; George Heiber, St. John; Douglas Rosen, Toronto; Harry Woolfe, Vancouver; Abraham Feinstein, Winnipeg.

Schnitzer, Buchanan and Berg will leave here tonight for Montreal.

Only Ten States Report on 'Dimes'

The industry's 1945 March of Dimes totals were given a substantial boost yesterday when Hawaii, which never before had reported infantile paralysis collections to the industry committee, came through with $63,710. Puerto Rico and the Canal Zone, which also were not in the drive in previous years, have reported $1,245 and $1,081, respectively.

Two additional states have completed their reports: Vermont collected $7,895, a 24 per cent increase over 1944; North Dakota reported $14,594, 35 per cent above last year. The committee, headed by Nicholas M. Schenck, reiterates its urge to exhibitors to rush their reports so that state chairmen may complete their accountings. Only ten states have made full reports.

Balaban and Kirsch Head Variety Benefit

CHICAGO, March 22.—Annual stage show at the Civic Opera House sponsored by the local Variety Club for the benefit of the La Rabida Sanitarium here will be known this year as the Hal Halperin Memorial Show to honor the memory of the theatrical leader who died recently. Tentative date is Sunday, April 29. John Balaban, B. and K. circuit head, and Jack Kirsch, Allied of Illinois president and Variety Club barker, will have charge of the affair.

Among those scheduled to appear on the bill, in addition to out of town stars, will be Dean Murphy, Willie Shore, Lou Holtz, Georgie Price, and Sophie Tucker. Last year $12,000 was turned over to the sanitarium.

Variety Vacation for Boston Soldier Wives

BOSTON, March 22.—Local Variety Club Tent No. 23 will open a Summer camp, to be known as 'Variety Club's Vacation Camp for G.I. Wives and Children,' and will provide free two-week vacations for 160 mothers and their children.

An established camp, Camp Sunlight, at Egypt, Mass., with the services of a trained staff, will take care of the neediest cases, to be selected by social agencies.

Appel Heads Odeon Eastern Division

TORONTO, March 22.—Odeon Theatres of Canada announced today the promotion of C. J. Appel from advertising and publicity manager to Eastern division general manager with jurisdiction over approximately 50 theatres in Ontario and Quebec.

New district managers also appointed are Harry S. Dahn for Western Ontario and the Niagara peninsula, William Weiss covering Central and Northern Ontario and Don Gauld in charge of Eastern Ontario and Quebec.

No successor has yet been named for Appel, but Thomas Bowyer was appointed film merchandising and public relations supervisor working out of the head office.

President Paul Nathanson left Toronto tonight for a tour of the Canadian West with the expectation that he will name officials for the Western division of the circuit, which was divided for closer direction following the resignation of Haskell Masters as general manager. Nathanson himself is taking a more active role as managing director under the new setup.

It was officially announced that J. Arthur Rank will be here in May, by which time all appointments are to be complete and work under way for theatre expansion program.

Censor Board Not Affected by Bill

ALBANY, N. Y., March 22.—The Mahoney bill, providing that the director, officers and employees of the motion picture division (censors) of the State Education Department, shall be in the competitive class of civil services, does not substantially change the situation, so far as can be learned. Despite the fact it was introduced about the time Irwin Esmond retired as chief of the division, the measure puts nothing in competitive civil service that is not already there. All of the positions have been covered by civil service for 17 years. Under the present setup, they could be made non-competitive only if the Education Department, the Civil Service Commission and the budget director agreed to the switch. This is considered very unlikely.

Kalcheim, Marks in New W. Morris Jobs

Nat Kalcheim has been appointed to take charge of the administration and coordination of the orchestra department in all offices of the William Morris Agency, by Willard Alexander. Alexander will concentrate on setting policy and building new properties for the department.

Alma E. Marks has joined the office to handle writers, material and vehicles for radio broadcasting and television. She has just returned from England where she supervised OWI radio programs.

Powell Here for 'Blimp'

Michael Powell has arrived in New York from London to attend the premiere of "Colonel Blimp" at the Gotham Theatre, next Thursday. Powell wrote, directed and produced the picture in association with Emeric Pressburger, who is on his way from London and is expected to arrive here within a few days.

MGM Grooms 27 for '45-46

(*Continued from page 1*)

beth Goudge, winner of the $175,000 special M-G-M prize award; "The Yearling," by Margaret Rawlings, Sidney Franklin producing; "Brighton Beach," musical, Henry Koster directing, and Joe Pasternak producing; "Holiday in Mexico," musical-comedy, to be produced by Pasternak; "Three Wise Fools," adapted from the Austin Strong stage play, with William Wright producing; "The Postman Always Rings Twice," by James Cain, with Carey Wilson producing; "Colorado," by Louis Bromfield, with Pasternak producing.

Also: "What Next, Corporal Hargrove," story being written by Harry Kurnitz, with George Haight producing; "The Kissing Bandit," original by Gladys Lehman, Pasternak producing; "The Green Years," by A. J. Cronin, Sam Zimbalist producing; "No Leave, No Love," original by Charles Martin, Pasternak producing; "Josephine," by Booth Tarkington; "The Home-Coming of Ulysses," Sidney Franklin producing.

Other Titles

Also: "An American Cavalcade," by Carl Sandburg; "Death in a Doll's House," by Lawrence Bachman and Hannah Lees, Robert Sisk producing; "Boy's Ranch," Sisk producing; "The History of Rome Hanks," by Joseph Pennell; "A Touch of Heaven," by Henry and Armin Robinson, Ralph Wheelwright producing; "Up Goes Maisie," George Haight producing; "Close Shave," Martin Gosch producing; "The Hoodlum Saint," Cliff Reid producing; "The Girl from Rectors," musical, Jack Cummings producing; "Daddy Is a Wolf," with Ferenc Molnar writing the story and Pasternak producing; "If Winter Comes," by A. S. Hutchinson; "The Sun Is My Undoing," by Marguerite Steen; "Taps for Private Tussie," by Jessie Stuart; "Red Shoes Run Faster," by Henry Bemelman.

The company now has 23 directors, 46 writers, 103 featured players and 32 stars under contract, with 19 players in the Armed Forces.

Mohme Independent Mexican Distributor

MEXICO CITY, March 22.—Gustave Mohme, for many years 20th Century-Fox manager in Mexico, has resigned to undertake distribution of Mexican films in the U. S. and elsewhere, and also has contracted for several films for distribution in the Philippines, some of which are already en route to Manila. They are said to be the first Mexican films to be exhibited there in a long time.

McNeill Renewed

CHICAGO, March 22.—Don McNeill, master-of-ceremonies of the Blue Network's 'Breakfast Club' program which was voted second "Best Daytime Program" in the MOTION PICTURE DAILY's ninth annual radio poll, was signed to a new five-year contract by the network, E. R. Borroff, head of the Central division, announces. McNeill has been associated with the show since June, 1933.

Condon Bill May Go To Senate Today

ALBANY, N. Y., March 22.—The Condon bill, drafted in cooperation with the New York State Labor Department's advisory committee to Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi, went on third order of the calendar today, and is expected to pass the Senate tomorrow, and the Assembly either tomorrow or Saturday. Corsi is promulgating a new State building code, with the aid of representatives of the motion picture industry.

The Condon bill broadens the definition of a place of public assembly and requires the industrial commissioner to enforce its provisions, except in cities of 100,000 or more having an enforcement agency such as the building department. It also makes changes relative to a fee for filing plans and for revocation of certificates of compliance. It does not affect New York City.

Expect August Trial Of Surrey Blue Law

LONDON, March 22.—An August hearing in High Court is anticipated for the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association's test of the legality of the Surrey County Council's act prohibiting children from attending films on Sundays.

A High Court writ formally challenging the act has been issued on behalf of the Odeon Theatre at Kingston-on-the-Thames, but in reality the entire CEA is behind the effort. The writ seeks a declaration on the council's move, which it charges is unreasonable.

Peirce Ends Promot'n Conferences in N. Y.

Bill Peirce, Jr., director of advertising-publicity for Lester Cowan Productions, left New York yesterday for Hollywood following discussions on future campaigns on United Artists releases with George J. Schaefer and Al Margolies.

For Ernie Pyle's "The Story of G.I. Joe," it is planned to increase the usual newspaper appropriation by 50 per cent. Plans for augmented campaigns on "Tomorrow the World" were also completed.

DeMille Files Appeal From AFRA Verdict

HOLLYWOOD, March 22.—Cecil B. DeMille today filed in Superior Court a notice of appeal to the California Supreme Court from the recent decision in favor of the American Federation of Radio Artists which resulted in relinquishment of his radio program. The court held that AFRA had a right to demand a one-dollar assessment, which DeMille refused to pay because it was to be used for political purposes.

N.Y.U. Film Conference

Production needs and uses of films in education will be the subject of a two-day conference of teachers, and producers and distributors of educational films at New York University which begins today. Dr. Alice V. Keliher is chairman of the conference committee.

Ten Films Score Heavily In Reports on 14 Cities

(*Continued from page* 1)

the effects of the midnight curfew, cut into grosses of many films.

"Hotel Berlin" and "Roughly Speaking" are displaying good drawing power in new openings while holdovers, including "Murder, My Sweet," "I'll Be Seeing You," "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "Music for Millions," "Thunderhead, Son of Flicka," "A Song to Remember" and "Meet Me in St. Louis" are strong, bringing to 10 the number of films scoring above house averages in 14 cities reporting.

"Tree" drew an excellent $206,725 in reports from 12 theatres in nine of the key cities where par is $180,200. It was a leader in Boston with a big $6,000 above; it more than doubled average in two Denver theatres with $20,635 above; and it was also a leader in Buffalo in an initial week with $6,200 above and in Chicago with $5,000 above. It was also strong in holdover weeks in Los Angeles, Pittsburgh and Baltimore, while it did more moderate business in holdover weeks in Indianapolis and Cincinnati.

"Hotel Berlin" was strong in an initial week in Baltimore and continued to draw big receipts in second weeks in Los Angeles for a total of $73,435 where par is $66,200. "Roughly Speaking" brought good receipts in initial weeks in Philadelphia and Kansas City, and in St. Louis as a dual, and continued strong in a second week as a moveover in Cincinnati. "Murder, My Sweet" was profitable in initial weeks in Kansas City and Baltimore and was above average in a second week in Pittsburgh.

"I'll Be Seeing You" was the leader in an initial week in St. Louis with over $5,000 above; was strong in a second week in Baltimore, and drew moderate business in a second week in Buffalo. "For Whom the Bell Tolls" drew good receipts in initial weeks in two Los Angeles theatres and in Cincinnati and in a third week in Denver, all on return engagements at popular prices. It was still strong in a second week in Toronto on an initial run and drew moderate business for the first week of a return engagement in Philadelphia.

"Music for Millions" continued strong in second weeks in Philadelphia and three Los Angeles theatres and was the leader in Cincinnati in an initial week. "Thunderhead, Son of Flicka," drew good business in an initial week in Boston, as a dual, and continued to hold up well in second weeks in three Kansas City theatres and in Cincinnati on a moveover. "A Song to Remember" was still strong in fourth weeks in two Los Angeles theatres, as a dual, and in a second week in Denver. "Meet Me in St. Louis" continued to draw heavy receipts in fourth weeks in Chicago and Pittsburgh and was still strong in Philadelphia in a second run.

Other films playing in two or more theatres in the 14 cities and scoring moderate business were: "Here Come the Co-Eds," "Objective, Burma," "Earl Carroll Vanities," "Mr. Emmanuel," "Belle of the Yukon" and "The Three Caballeros."

"Tonight and Every Night" was $7,000 above par in two Boston theatres; "Here Come the Waves" was $7,300 above in Pittsburgh and strong in a third week in Cleveland, and "Practically Yours" showed strength in initial weeks in St. Louis and Cleveland.

NTS To Campaign on Box-Office Supplies

As the first step in its 1945 promotional program, National Theatre Supply will stress, during April, the sale of box office supplies through its 28 branch offices from Coast to Coast. The campaign will include direct mail to exhibitors, window displays and tradepaper advertising.

Among the items to be featured are illuminated glass admission signs, 'Plastack' coin holders, Goldberg speaking tubes, 'Automaticket' electric ticket registers, tickets. The campaign will also include promotions on lobby, booth, auditorium; janitorial supplies, fire protection equipment, chair repairs.

'Bobby-Sox' Fan Paper

CHICAGO, March 22.—A new 'fan' monthly, angled for the 'bobby-sox' trade, will appear in April as *Teen Screen Magazine*. Sheldon Heiman, former juvenile columnist on the *Downtown Shopping News*, here, will be the editor of the pocket-size magazine.

Paris Strike Ends

Theatre managers and union members have agreed on increased salary scales, ending a Paris film theatre strike, which had spread to several provincial cities, according to press dispatches received here yesterday.

Last of RKO Depinet Drive Meetings Held

The final branch meeting in RKO Radio's 1945 "Ned Depinet Drive" was conducted here yesterday morning by drive captain Robert Folliard, at the New York exchange. The drive squad, headed by Folliard, and including Harry Michalson, Mike Poller and Frank Drumm, arrived Wednesday night from branch meetings in Boston and New Haven, concluding a 40-day tour by Folliard and Michalson of company branches throughout the U. S. and Canada.

Taube Resigns from MPTA of Ontario

TORONTO, March 22.—Syd Taube has resigned as executive secretary of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario, which he organized three years ago, and has gone to New York to consider a new proposition, according to an announcement made here today.

Sanford in Five Deals

Bert Sanford, New York district manager of Altec Service Corp., has closed service renewal deals with the following circuits: Broadway Carteret Corp.; Midtown Holding Co. and Newark Amusement Co., Newark; Nepeta, Inc., New York; H. V. Theatre Enterprises, Inc., Kingston.

Armed Forces Like 'Princess' Best

"The Princess and the Pirate" was the most popular film in 1944 among members of the armed forces, in the U. S. and continental bases, as reflected by attendance at Army theatres, according to the U. S. Army Motion Picture Service. The 10 most popular pictures from a box office standpoint were, in the order named, as follows: "The Princess and the Pirate," Goldwyn-RKO; "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," M-G-M; "Arsenic and Old Lace," Warner Bros.; "Since You Went Away," Selznick-UA; "To Have and Have Not," Warner Bros.; "Bathing Beauty," M-G-M; "Going My Way," Paramount; "Pin-Up Girl," 20th Century-Fox; "Up in Arms," Goldwyn-RKO; "Kismet," M-G-M.

Ontario Unscathed By New Taxation

TORONTO, March 22.—Leslie Frost, Provincial Treasurer, has introduced no amusement or other tax measures to the Ontario Legislature in estimates for 1945-46 which list censorship and theatre inspection expenses of $42,200 of which $35,200 is for salaries, $4,000 for travelling expenses and $3,000 for maintenance for the 12 months commencing April 1.

The financial report for the past year showed a revenue of $195,609 made up as follows: film censorship fees, $105,268; annual licenses for theatres and projectionists, $89,937, miscellaneous, $403.

Tax-Free Admissions End in Phila. Apr. 1

PHILADELPHIA, March 22.—The receiver of taxes here announces that new regulations recently passed by the City Council removing all exemptions from the original city amusement tax legislation, will go into effect on April 1. This affects previously tax-free children's admissions, with the tax calling for the collection of one cent on each 25 cents or fraction thereof. License fees are increased from $1 to $10 annually.

Columbia To Release WAC 'Lend-Lease'

The question "What's the reason for Lend-Lease?" will be answered by way of an Office of War Information-War Activities Committee release, titled "The Two-Way Street." Charles Winninger acts as narrator for the eight-minute short, half of which is done in animated cartoon form, as created for use in the Army-Navy 'Screen Magazine,' produced by Army Pictorial Service. Columbia will distribute, beginning April 12.

Langler Replaces Jordan

ATLANTA, March 22.—Harry Graham, Southern district sales manager of Universal, has appointed Robert J. Langler as Tennessee sales representative, replacing 'Shag' Jordon, resigned. Langler formerly was with the sales force of Universal in Cincinnati. Jordon is taking a rest in Jacksonville.

It's SPRING—and
SPENCER TRACY
KATHARINE HEPBURN
in "WITHOUT LOVE"
with LUCILLE BALL
Keenan Wynn • Carl Esmond • Patricia Morison • Felix Bressart
Screen Play by Donald Ogden Stewart • Based on the Play by Philip Barry • Directed by Harold S. Bucquet • Produced by Lawrence A. Weingarten • A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

You can't do WITHOUT LOVE

(SPENCER TRACY and KATHARINE HEPBURN tried it in their wonderful new M*G*M romance! The Gay and Golden World Premiere at Radio City Music Hall!)

Get Credit For Your Red Cross Collection. Send Your Report To Your Area Chairman.

Output of Film up 6 Per Cent in '44

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Total production of photographic film last year was 580,448,000 square feet, an increase of six per cent or 34,355,000 square feet over 1943, it was reported today by the Department of Commerce.

The department announced that fourth quarter output increased 10 per cent or 13,744,000 square feet over the preceding quarter and was 18 per cent or 23,847,000 square feet above the fourth quarter in 1943.

Commercial users received a slightly lower proportion of the output in 1944, but the actual quantity distributed through commercial channels increased seven per cent or 24,260,000 square feet over the preceding year. The ratio of total shipments to commercial users steadily declined through the year, from 72 per cent in the first quarter to 59 per cent in the final three months.

The Department's report covered the production of eight manufacturers in 1943 and the first half of last year and ten manufacturers for the final six months of 1944, representing 100 per cent of the industry.

Independents Seek Raw Stock Formula

(*Continued from page* 1)

the WPB consumers durable goods division before the Industry Advisory Committee holds it next meeting. Any problems remaining after this informal conference will, of course, go to the larger group for final determination.

At yesterday's meeting, election of NAMPI officers was tabled until the next meeting, in mid-April. The present slate includes Charles Hirliman Florida-Hirliman Productions, president; Jack Hoffberg, Hoffberg Productions, first vice-president; Sanders, secretary, and Sam Hacker, Film Audit Service, treasurer.

Principal complaint being aired, which may or may not be incorporated in a formula for presentation to the WPB, is the uncertainty of release scheduling by small independents compared to the large companies, frequently involving loss of raw stock allocations as printing cannot be determined as finely as by a large company in any given quarter.

This can, in the opinion of many independents, be corrected by securing permission to carry-over allocations from one quarter to the next.

Debut for Williams

LOS ANGELES, March 22.—Paul Williams, former Assistant U. S. Attorney General, and new general counsel of Southern California Theatre Owners Association, will be introduced to the trade at a reception here April 5.

Young to Produce

CLEVELAND, March 22.—George Young, for the past 13 years head of the Roxy Theatre, only local theatre playing burlesque, is leaving the field to enter film production. It is understood that he has sold fifty per cent of his interest in the Roxy to a burlesque circuit.

Reviews

"The Randolph Family"

(*English Films-Paul Soskin, British*)

"THE Randolph Family" deals with the life of a British family, and while charming and played to the hilt by a fine cast, it seems too placid to appeal to the average American audience, although 'class' patrons will enjoy it. Others might be bored with the succession of sequences unfolding in chronological order, with little of the suspense or strife which might have made the film more fitting to American tastes.

The story, a simple one, deals with a father and mother celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in an upper middle-class home in an English village The scattered family returns, each child having been away for years, and each carrying his or her own story of success or failure. The story's mood is episodic and the crisp British accents and mannerisms are not overly helpful for American enjoyment. The actors are superb, however, with Margaret Lockwood, as the star, looking lovely and acting with grace and simplicity. Her lover, Nicholas Wilding, gives a sincere performance. Helen Haye and Frederick Leister are fine as the 70-year-old parents, and Ann Stephens and Derek Lansiaux as the children, almost steal the picture from their elders.

The film was produced by Maurice Ostrer, and directed by Harold French. The screen play, by R. J. Minney and Pat Kerwan, from the play, "Dear Octopus," by Dodie Smith, is somewhat stilted. It is obvious that the film was aimed primarily for the English maarket.

Running time, 78 minutes. General classification. Release date, March 10.

EDWARD SMITH

"Wait For Me"

(*Artkino*)

"WHEN endless days bring no word from me, keep your lonely vigil, dear—wait for me." So wrote Konstatin Simonov, Red Star correspondent, in a poem inspired on the Eastern front. Eighteen different composers set it to music, and a million copies were printed. Emerging as a play, it ran simultaneously in some 30 Russian theatres and was then filmed, with a scenario by the original author, with his wife, Valentina Serova, cast as the one who waits. English dialogue has now been added, smoothly.

In these years when fighting men throughout the world live in hope that their women will keep faithful, this tale attains a stature not otherwise merited by the all-too-elementary way (for American audiences) in which it has been told. The heroine's husband, Boris Blinov, is given up for dead in a Nazi ambush. His closest friend, Lev Sverdlin, gets through to Moscow with the sad report. The wife refuses to accept the 'inevitable,' and, sure enough, the loved one miraculously comes back. For counterpoint, there is Nikolai Nazvanov, heartbroken when his Nina Zorskaia fails to wait.

The picture was directed, with a few redeeming touches, by Alexander Stolper and Boris Ivanov. Main U. S. voices are those of Donna Keith, Alexander Scourby, and Sanford Meisner.

Running time, 87 minutes. General classification. Release, March 17.

TOM LOY

Films Get Free Space In Store Tie-Ups

(*Continued from page* 1)

backgrounds of the Armed Services, with military personnel cooperating.

Local stores and advertisers have used allotted advertising space to promote merchandise and products used in films on a direct tie-up to the local showing of a film. Paramount secured this type of advertising in a tie-up with R. H. Macy's department store, here, to promote "Frenchman's Creek" and United Artists more recently secured newspaper lineage for "Guest in the House." Films derived from books receive thousand of lines of free promotion in newspapers through publisher tie-ups.

More recently, Warner Bros. at Macon, Ga., opened "God Is My Co-Pilot" and almost every local advertiser used customary advertising space to salute Col. Robert L. Scott, local war hero whose experiences are recounted in the film.

Votes Against 'Reports'

PHILADELPHIA, March 22.—Although no official announcement has been made, members of Eastern Pennsylvania Allied, at a board meeting here, registered opposition to the new Confidential Reports, Inc., checking service formed by distributors, and scheduled to begin operating April 2.

Britain Orders a 50% Money Quota Increase

(*Continued from page* 1)

foot had the distributor adopted a footage basis, and, thirdly, that every eight dollars of the price paid for British films exhibited in America shall reduce the footage obligation by one foot.

The monetary quota provision heretofore provided that each American company must make or acquire one British film per 100,000 feet of imports, that each must be at least 7,000 feet in length, and involved a payment of at least $82,000 in wages to British labor.

The 50 per cent increase was forecast in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Jan. 26.

Abel in Three Air Shows

Walter Abel, currently in "The Affairs of Susan," first Hal B. Wallis production for Paramount, will be guest-starred on three network radio shows originating in New York in advance of the world premiere of the picture at the Rivoli Theatre on March 28. Abel will appear on "Stage Door Canteen" on CBS, tonight; he will be the guest of Radie Harris on her Blue Network program tomorrow, and will be on the Colgate 'Theatre of Romance' program on CBS on Tuesday.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, March 22

COLUMBIA has exercised its option on Jerome Courtland, youth who scored in "Together Again." . . . At 20th Century-Fox, players Michael Dunn and Richard Conte and story editor Julian Johnson have had their contracts renewed. . . . Ward Bond and George "Gabby" Hayes will appear in Republic's "Dakota."

•

Marjorie Harmon has been selected for the feminine lead in Monogram's "Springtime in Texas." . . . Twelve-year-old Dickie Tyler has been signed for a featured role in Rainbow Production's "The Bells of St. Mary's," which will be released by RKO Radio. . . . Artie Shaw has purchased an original by Al Martin as his next.

•

Steve Fisher has been signed by Universal to write the screenplay for the next Maria Montez picture, "Tangiers." . . . Hattie McDaniel has been assigned a role in the forthcoming Warner production, "Janie Gets Married." . . . Charles Drake has been signed to a contract by Paramount producer Hal Wallis.

•

Bert Rench, formerly with M-G-M, has joined Patrick Michael Cunning Television Productions as head of its editing department. . . . Ed Beloin will write the screenplay for "Katherine the Last," next Universal film starring Deanna Durbin and Charles Laughton.

Curfew Needs Act of Congress: LaGuardia

(*Continued from page* 1)

A.M., here and questioned whether the Government "can or will" enforce the 12-o'clock closing regulation unless it should be given 'teeth' through an act of Congress.

LaGuardia emphasized that Byrnes' institution of the curfew was merely a "request" and said he felt that, by the same token, he had the right to "suggest" one o'clock. Nor has the Mayor been able to determine who in Washington sought the request or exactly why it was made, he added. He pointed out the difficulties of enforcing midnight closings in a city the size of New York, including prominently the problem of traffic snarls, and mentioned also that the service men do not like the curfew.

Only night clubs, dance halls and bowling alleys can be compelled to observe the curfew, the Mayor said, because these are the only places under the control of the municipal authorities.

Regarding the flood of messages from other mayors and state officials to the effect that they were abiding by the Byrnes' request, LaGuardia questioned whether they were obtaining full compliance in their own localities.

Barach Names Kendis

CLEVELAND, March 22.—Nat Barach, National Screen branch manager, has promoted George Kendis to office manager.

Actors' Move On Video Due

(Continued from page 1)

was instructed to report to the Equity Council as a result of a demand by Equity members that something be done to fix working standards. On the basis of the report of its television committee, the Equity Council will decide whether it will press the joint SAG-AE-AFRA television committee for action.

Equity's claim over jurisdiction of actors in television dates back to 1931 when, it is said, the "4A's" awarded it jurisdiction. Neither SAG nor AFRA concede that Equity has jurisdiction over television, nor has Equity relinquished its claim. In view of the cordial inter-relationship between the three groups, an arrangement might be worked out without a jurisdictional row ensuing, should the joint television committee be forced to act.

Going Commercial

Demands for action at this time are understood to be prompted by the fact that television producers are beginning to produce shows for commercial sponsors and are setting a pattern for postwar operations. Members of the "4A" actor groups who have been appearing on television shows have been providing their respective television committees with data on salaries received and working conditions encountered, providing material to be used to set standards. Since most television stations now producing "live" shows claimed to be merely experimenting, talent has been drawn from many fields, including models and experimental dramatic groups.

The IATSE recently declared that it will seek jurisdiction over many technicians in television, indicating a jurisdictional battle with both the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the National Association of Broadcast Engineers and Technicians.

The American Federation of Musicians recently moved to set standards for musicians working in television shows.

Lowther Promoted, Is DuMont Producer

Samuel H. Cuff, general manager of DuMont television station WABD, New York, announces the appointment of George Lowther, radio writer-producer, as executive director of the station. Lowther will supervise all programs.

Louis Sposa has been appointed manager of the program service department, responsible for the assignment of program and rehearsal time and supervision of camera crews, production assistants and guest relations. Bob Bright is the new art director.

Eleanor Belz is establishing a motion picture department.

Crosley Files for Third Telecaster

DAYTON, O., Mar. 22.—The Crosley Corp., operating WLW, WSAI and several international short wave stations in Cincinnati, has filed with the FCC for a commercial television station here. The company already has applications pending for television stations in Cincinnati and Columbus.

Walsh Eastbound in Move to End Strike

(Continued from page 1)

tainty when MOTION PICTURE DAILY learned their baggage is ready and passage booked. Although international vice-president Roy Brewer would not confirm this beyond saying, "Such a move is under consideration," the understanding is that Walsh will meet with William Hutcheson, Harvey and Ed Brown, international heads of the Carpenters and Machinists and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, respectively.

The Conference of Studio Unions strategy committee sent an open letter to all unions in Hollywood pledging that the strike settlement will include an agreement that all workmen who lose their jobs because of strike sympathy shall be reinstated without penalty.

CSU president Herbert Sorrell called a third all-union mass meeting for Sunday night.

A producer spokesman said, "Working conditions are better than at any time since the strike started."

Philco Has a Heavy Television Program

Philco plans to produce television receiving sets within a few months after the end of the war, John Ballantyne, president, informs stockholders in a letter.

Ballantyne stated, "We believe that television has progressed to the point where it is ready to proceed commercially at the end of the war and provide a satisfactory service for the general public. The Federal Communications Commission has been studying the question of frequency allocations for television and other radio services. In its recommendations of Jan. 15, hearings, the Commission agreed that commercial television should go ahead immediately after the war and set aside 12 channels in the spectrum for commercial television service to the public.

"Philco believes that these channels will permit several hundred stations to go on the air in the next few years and give a large part of the public regular television program service. Many sections of the country will have the benefit of programs from several stations. The Commission's action can therefore be the basis for a large postwar industry and provide employment and job opportunities for a great many people."

'Fury' in 65 First-Runs

"Fury in the Pacific," two-reeler which Warners is distributing for the War Activities Committee, has been set for simultaneous showings this weekend in 65 Manhattan, Brooklyn and New York first-runs.

Nat Burton Dead

HOLLYWOOD, March 22.—Nat Burton, 43, who wrote the words for "The White Cliffs of Dover" and many other songs, died of a heart attack at his hotel apartment here last night. Surviving are his widow, Dorothy; a son, Jerry, and a brother, Billy Burton, an actors' agent.

'IA' Will Negotiate Boost for 3,000

(Continued from page 1)

ing 28 of the cities, but further clarification is needed on some decisions. Only Seattle and San Francisco have not yet been covered.

The "IA" will seek to make automatic wage progression increases retroactive to Dec. 1, 1944, the date when a new contract would have been negotiated were not both the IATSE and the film companies working on a system of job classifications under the previous contract. Automatic progression from minimum to maximum within two years will also be sought.

Minimums and maximums in the 18 job classifications set up for the "white collarites" provide an average range of over 33 per cent. Although many of the workers will be receiving salaries which are at the midpoints of the range, they will still benefit materially if the new system is negotiated and approved by the regional boards.

Austrian To Speak At TPA Meet Monday

Ralph B. Austrian, executive vice-president of RKO Television Corp. will be the principal speaker at the next regular meeting of the Television Producers Association at the Hotel Pennsylvania next Monday evening.

Committees have been formed by TPA to analyze various aspects of television programming with an aim to standardizing such departments as will warrant a fixed plan.

Curfew Causes WB To Raise Scales

Chicago, March 22.—The Warner circuit here has advanced evening admission prices in all theatres to regain losses of late evening sales due to the curfew. In its 'A' houses, the Avalon, Capitol, and Stratford, the night scale has been advanced from six to five p. m., while in its small houses the normal 6:30 change has been advanced to six p. m.

Raytheon Plans for Nationwide Video

Plan for the creation of a Coast-to Coast television and broadcasting network by micro-wave radio links between stations erected atop nine mountain peaks are revealed by the Raytheon Manufacturing Co., which has filed applications for the stations with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington.

Subject to FCC approval, the system envisioned would provide channels for television, frequency-modulation and standard broadcasting, a micro-wave relay chain, a public call system, highway-control traffic and police master stations. There would also be provision for radio safety stations for commercial and private airplane operation within a radius of 300 to 500 miles around each transmitter location.

To Build, Alter 250 S. African Theatres

In the first two years after the war, some 250 to 300 theatres will be constructed or reconditioned in South Africa, Ross Allen, assistant to Edward F. Lomba, 20th Century-Fox managing director in that territory, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here. Allen has been in New York from Johannesburg for home office conferences, his first trip in four years.

Business in South Africa has reached its peak, Allen said, due to the capacity of present theatres. Undoubtedly, he said, business will expand with the erection of more theatres, having nearly doubled since the war, due to the influx of Allied troops and war industries. When building materials, projection and sound equipment are obtainable for new theatres and as replacements, there will be a "terrific amount of expansion" there, Allen said.

Films are the main recreation for South Africans, he observed, with American product occupying 85 per cent of available screen time, and British films taking up the rest. Musicals and dramas are favored, Allen said. Problem facing theatre operators is obsolete equipment, with consequent damage to prints.

Brandt Purchases Alden

The Alden Theatre, at Broadway and 67th Street, New York, has been purchased by the Brandt interests from the City Bank Farmers Trust Co., for $150,000. Extensive alterations, for which War Production Board approval has been secured, are planned. The house has an assessed valuation of $460,000, of which $390,000 represents land.

25% Budget Cut for Censorship Office

(*Continued from page* 1)

sible by economies in operation, it was disclosed here today when President Roosevelt asked Congress to appropriate $1,120,453,300 to support operations of the 19 civilian war agencies during the year beginning July 1, next.

The President's message indicated that the emergency war agencies generally will curtail their activities during the coming year, but that there is no great relaxation of controls in prospect. An outstanding exception to the general reduction in spending will be in the case of the OPA, given $15,000,000 more than this year to finance a big enforcement drive.

The Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, which is expected gradually to liquidate its operations, would be given $15,880,000, a cut of only $1,700,000, which officials had previously indicated would not seriously cut into their film or radio projects.

The War Production Board would get $48,042,000, a cut of about $12,000,000, while the Office of War Information would get $54,100,000, a cut of $1,000,000, but adequate, it was said, for its anticipated operations.

End Infringement Suit

A suit by May Davies Martenet against United Artists which sought an injunction, accounting of profits and damages on "Voice in the Wind", claiming the title to be an infringement of the title of her book, published by McCall's in 1942, was discontinued and settled out of Federal Court, here, yesterday.

Order Removal of Fluorescent Bulbs

New York building inspectors are instructing theatres here to remove fluorescent bulbs from under marquees because they violate the local building code, it is learned. Loew's and RKO, and others, had switched to fluorescents to provide more favorable lighting under marquees, yet remaining within "brownout" rules.

It is pointed out that fluorescents are not usually lodged securely in outlets and the possibility of their falling creates a hazard to pedestrians.

Hunt Estate Sells 4 Houses to Leverette

PORTLAND, Ore., March 22.—Walter H. Leverette, owner of Leverette Interstate Theatres, Inc., has purchased the estate of the late George A. Hunt in Medford, which included four theatres.

Leverette, who was associated with Hunt, owns theatres in Ashland, Ore.; Yreka and Weed, Cal. He has sold his interests in the Grantz Pass Amusement Co., operating two theatres, to Mrs. George Hunt.

Joshua Lowe Dies

Joshua Lowe, 69, head of the London office of *Variety* since 1922, died Wednesday from injuries received in a street accident, according to word received here yesterday. He leaves a widow, the former Charlotte Parry, Music Hall headliner, now retired in London, and a brother, Albert.

British Engineers Invite TBA to U.K.

Receipt of an invitation from the British Institution of Radio Engineers, by the Television Broadcasters Association, here, to send a representative to London to attend a conference there next month on international television standards, was revealed here yesterday following a meeting of the TBA board of directors.

Studio Visit

The meeting of the TBA board was followed by a visit to the DuMont television studio here where members witnessed a demonstration of a new 20-inch picture tube developed by DuMont, said to provide an 18-by-13½-inch picture with good definition.

The board approved an associate membership in TBA for Bryan Davis Publishing Co., publishers of *Communications Magazine*. The next board meeting will be held in Philadelphia on April 27, when Philco will act as host.

Invitation to the London conference was extended by Paul Adorjan, director of Rediffusion, Ltd., London, and an officer of the British radio engineers.

Mrs. Claughton Buys Four Tampa Theatres

MIAMI, Fla., March 22.—Mrs. E. N. Claughton, of the Royal Theatre, this city, has purchased from Butler Core, of Tampa, the Rialto, Northtown, Howard and State, all in Tampa. Gore has not announced any future connections.

Constance Moore, Tommy Ivo, Pinky Lee and a bevy of beautiful Earl Carroll lovelies in a spectacular production sequence from Republic's gay, new, star-studded super-show, "Earl Carroll Vanities."

ADVT.

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 58 NEW YORK, U.S.A., MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1945 TEN CENTS

Third Decade Celebration For 20th-Fox

Company's Growth Kept Pace with Industry's

The history of 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., which will celebrate its 30th anniversary starting in April, presents a parallel to the growth and development of the industry, now one of the greatest in the world. As a pioneer in the fabulous rise of motion pictures as popular entertainment 20th Century-Fox has been in the forefront of development of production, distribution and exhibition for three decades. The company today is under the leadership of Spyros Skouras, president; Joseph M.

Spyros Skouras

(*Continued on page* 7)

Pinanski Sets Four 7th War Loan Aides

The Seventh War Loan drive by the motion picture industry will focus attention on activities of state and field committees throughout the nation, and in line with this, and to insure its objective, Samuel Pinanski, national drive chairman, has added to the national executive campaign personnel in New York a field coordinating com-

(*Continued on page* 11)

Senft, Others Again Head Cinema Lodge

Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith will install officers for 1945 at the Hotel Astor here tomorrow evening. All present officers are being returned to office and three new vice-presidents, Jack H. Levin, Martin Levine and Milton Livingston are being added.

President Albert A. Senft will be

(*Continued on page* 9)

20th-Fox's Net Is $12,400,000, Up $1,500,000 for Year

The consolidated net profit, after all charges, of 20th Century-Fox Film, headed by Spyros Skouras, and its voting-controlled subsidies, including National Theatres and Roxy Theatres, for the 53 weeks ended Dec. 30, 1944, is estimated at $12,400,000, an increase of $1,500,000 over last year's $10,901,000. This is equivalent, after deducting dividends on prior preferred and convertible preferred stock, paid during the year to approximately $6.00 per share on the 1,771,364 shares of common stock outstanding at Dec. 30, 1944.

A comparison of the 1944 estimated with the actual figures for 1943 follows: Consolidated net profit before Federal taxes, minority interests and contingencies, $40,165,000 for 1944, against $38,153,000 for 1943; provision for Federal income and excess profits taxes, $25,100,000, against $23,800,000; net profit applicable to minority interests, $1,765,000, against $1,433,000.

Golden Will Release Next Through UA

Golden Productions, headed by Edward Golden and Sam Dembow, Jr., will distribute at least one picture through United Artists, Edward C. Raftery, United Artists president, announced at the weekend, confirming MOTION PICTURE DAILY's story of March 19.

The picture will be "Breakfast in

(*Continued on page* 11)

Non-Curfew House May Lose Current

Toledo, March 25.—The district War Manpower Commission here may order electricity cut off from Jack O'Donnell's local Loop Theatre, recently certified as a curfew violator, to the WMC in Washington, according to an intimation from Ralph O. Snyder, district WMC director.

Originally reported to be keeping open until four a.m., the house is now said to be running until five.

Film Classics Lists Five Partnerships

An amended certificate of limited partnership filed in the office of the Clerk of the County of New York, as appearing in company advertisements in the public prints on Friday, reveals the financial structure of Films Classics Distributing Co., with general partners and their share of the profits listed as Harry Mandell, five per cent; and Irving Wormser, 12½ per cent, and limited partners with their respective cash contributions and continuing share of the profits listed as: Edward L. Alperson, $7,500, 16 per cent; Betty Stillman, $1,250, 16 per cent; Joseph Auerbach, $1,250, 16 per cent. The partnerships run until Nov. 1, 1949.

Charged against the portion of profits to Irving Wormser, are all monies paid to him in excess of his salary of $150 weekly.

See Possibility of Studio Strike Settlement Soon

HOLLYWOOD, March 25.—Possibility that the studio strike may be settled soon by action from the National Labor Relations Board was seen Friday after Association of Motion Picture Producers president Edgar J. Mannix, Conference of Studio Unions president Herbert Sorrell and IATSE president Richard F. Walsh met privately in the early afternoon.

Later the producers met in a special session and issued a statement reiterating the stand that they will abide by any decision made by NLRB in the jurisdictional dispute over set decorators. Still later, Walsh said he would do likewise.

Sorrell has reiterated his willingness to abide by an NLRB decision but insisted that producers deal with Local 1421 meanwhile.

In a mail ballot, some 90 per cent of the Screen Actors Guild voted to ignore the picket lines and fulfill their contracts, thus following the advice of SAG officials at a mass meeting last week.

The *Los Angeles Times*, in a lead editorial, said the strike "takes the blue ribbon for asininity in wartime labor disputes" and pictured the walkout as marring the notable contribution the industry has made to the war effort.

Would Curtail Child Labor In Theatres

Corsi Backs N. Y. Bill to Limit Working Hours

Sharp curtailment of working hours of the many minors employed in theatres throughout New York State would follow passage by the Legislature of the pending Coudert-Brooks child labor bill, support for which has been voiced here by Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi.

As reported in *Motion Picture Daily* last Aug. 28, a State Department of Labor survey found large numbers of youngsters working as ushers, ticket takers and even porters, with hundreds employed illegally, with recent additional inroads upon adult personnel by both Armed Forces and war industries further increasing the juvenile payrolls.

In support of the Coudert-Brooks bill, Corsi has released the results of

(*Continued on page* 9)

Industry Pre-Trial Conference Today

At the pre-trial conference on the industry consent decree, to be held this afternoon before Judge Henry W. Goddard in the New York Federal Court, it is expected that the court will deny the Government's request for an injunction on clearance, pending trial. At the first hearing before him, Judge Goddard, while allowing briefs and counter-briefs to be filed, indicated

(*Continued on page* 11)

Theatres Must Show Their Film Records

Counsel for the distributors here Friday described the Federal Court ruling in Pittsburgh, in granting distributors the right to examine records of 27 exhibitors in that area to determine grosses on percentage pictures, as establishing the right of distributors through the Courts to obtain an inspection of theatre records of per-

(*Continued on page* 10)

Personal Mention

JOE VOGEL, Loew vice-president in charge of out-of-town theatres, will return to New York from the Coast this week.

•

SGT. ANDY MCEUEN, formerly of Paramount's Los Angeles exchange, has been awarded the Bronze Star and a citation for heroism in the European theatre.

•

ERNEST VAN WEY, son of the owners of the Sun, Gothenburg, Neb., has been awarded the Purple Heart following wounds received in the Pacific.

•

SAM HADLEY, Warner electrician for 19 years at the Burbank studio, was honored with a party Friday in celebration of his 75th birthday.

•

STEVE BROIDY, Monogram vice-president and general sales manager, has returned to the Coast following a Washington and New York visit.

•

JACK MELVIN of the Melvin-Rackin Agency, is due here from Hollywood to confer with film companies on Coast representation.

•

HAROLD GOLDRABEN of Loew's out-of-town booking department, will leave for Buffalo from New York early this week.

•

RUDY WEISS, Warners' real estate department executive, returned to New York from Ohio over the weekend.

•

S-SGT. LEO PILLOT, formerly with Columbia's exploitation department, is now stationed at Lowry Field, Denver.

•

RUDY FRANK, publicity director for the State Theatre, Hartford, is back there after 10 weeks in Hollywood.

•

JOHN J. BOWEN, M-G-M New York district manager, will arrive here today from Miami.

•

MITCHELL BERNSTEIN, Canadian exhibitor, visited the Warner Coast studio over the weekend.

•

FRANK N. PHELPS, of Warner Theatres, will arrive in New York today from Connecticut.

•

MARIAN RYAN, M-G-M Buffalo manager, returned there Saturday after a trip to Denver.

•

JACOB WILK, Warner Eastern talent and story head, has returned to New York from Boston.

•

SI SEADLER, M-G-M advertising manager, will arrive on the Coast today from Chicago.

•

SAM MARX, M-G-M producer, left Saturday for the Coast, from New York.

•

FRITZ LANG, Universal producer, arrived in New York yesterday.

Tradewise . . .

By SHERWIN KANE

JUST a few days before the March 16th meeting of the Industry Advisory Committee on raw stock with War Production Board officials in Washington to set quotas for the second quarter, there came a proposal from high WPB quarters that all footage available for commercial users hereafter be freed to civilian consumers to get whatever they could as best they might.

According to the stories which have come out of Washington since, the proposal originated in the top strata of WPB. It is said that officials of the Board wearied of fretting with the problem of trying to satisfy all of the claimants for raw stock and concluded that the best way out of the seemingly hopeless problem was to wash their hands of it and let the civilian users scramble for whatever was left after primary provision had been made for the raw stock requirements, in full, of the Army, the Navy, other Governmental agencies and foreign claimants.

Whatever raw stock remained thereafter presumably would be unrestricted and industry and other civilian consumers would compete against each other in a race for whatever footage each might be able to obtain.

•

Some people think that under such a procedure, complete chaos could, and probably would, develop among civilian consumers. Moreover, raw stock manufacturers would have shifted to them a responsibility and a burden that would almost certainly tax them so severely that their efforts toward maintaining production could be seriously affected. They would be confronted with obligations to old, established customers and to the accounts on which their normal, postwar business will depend. They would be subjected to pressures from all directions while faced with the insoluble problem of providing for the many out of supplies insufficient for the few.

Some raw stock consumers would be bound to suffer. In such bitter competition within an uncontrolled market some consumers, inside and outside the industry, would stand little chance of obtaining sufficient raw stock in quantities anywhere near their minimum requirements.

No doubt, it took a good deal of talking to dissuade WPB authorities from carrying out such a proposal. For the time being, at least, it appears to have been abandoned. But members of the industry who have been free of late with their criticism of the handling of some phases of recent raw stock control by WPB might pause at this juncture and consider whether they would prefer no control at all and the consequences suggested herein, to the kind of control to which they are subject now.

WPB's temptation to wash its hands of the problem of allocating raw stock to civilian consumers is understood to have derived from a reasoning process that, unlike most other rationing of critical materials, control over access to raw film offers no protection or advantage to the ultimate consumer. Presumably, the reasoning was that no matter what ultimate disposition was made of the civilian raw stock supply, motion picture entertainment inevitably would have continued to be provided to the public. By whom, it is to be assumed, was unimportant, for WPB's basic aim is more to guarantee that the ultimate consumer, the public, receives what is available after wartime essentials have been provided for than it is to assist in adapting strained conditions to the convenience of an industry. In other words, the public consumes entertainment and not film.

•

Independent producers may find it easy to understand the WPB's attitude in wishing to rid itself of the headaches attendant upon the problems of civilian raw stock allocations. After demanding their own raw stock quotas, and getting them, the independents found it advisable to do what WPB was tempted to do—bow out.

At its first meeting, the independents' scheduling committee received applications from independent producers for just about twice the amount of raw stock alloted for their use during the second quarter. At its next meeting, the following day, the committee tossed in the towel and disbanded. Committee members, in explanation, said they could not accept the responsibility of determining the amounts of raw stock to which individual applicants might be entitled in the face of the obvious necessity for cutting all applications drastically below the declared requirements. Accordingly, the problem was returned promptly to WPB.

Maybe some of those producers who not so long ago said they had not been aware that they were dependent on their distributors for raw stock supplies perceive some advantages now in the old order.

Stolz, PRC Eastern Ad-Publicity Head

Arnold Stolz, former United Artists exploitation director, has been named PRC Eastern advertising-publicity director, Don McElwaine, national PRC advertising-publicity director, announced on Friday at a reception for the trade press at the Sherry-Netherlands Hotel. PRC had originally intended to move its Eastern advertising-publicity department entirely to the Coast.

Stolz, a Quigley Silver Award winner in 1941, while at the Warner Avon Theatre, Utica, N. Y., has disposed of his Park Theatre, Woonsocket, R. I., to Fred Green, who operates the Bijou, same city.

Will Hays Will Make Annual Report Today

With a quorum in New York, the annual Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America meeting will be held here today, with Will H. Hays, president, making his annual report.

The report is understood to touch on the post-war situation, cooperative activities, censorship, 'the world screen,' the industry's war efforts, films and education, motion picture attendance, trade paper cooperation and other subjects.

Leonard Now Cagney Studio Liaison Here

Charles Leonard has been appointed studio home office representative for William Cagney Productions, with headquarters in the East, it was learned here at the weekend.

Leonard was at one time Universal Eastern advertising and publicity manager, United Artists Eastern director of advertising and exploitation and studio advertising director.

Lt. Mooney in U. S.

Lt. Paul C. Mooney, Jr., former member of the staff of *Motion Picture Herald*, who was wounded in action in Belgium on Jan. 6, is now in Valley Forge General Hospital at Phoenix, Pa., recovering from eye, shoulder and leg wounds. Lt. Mooney's father, Paul, Sr., is with National Screen Service, here.

Jack Purves Dies

TORONTO, March 25.—Jack C. Purves, manager of the Capitol Theatre, Welland, died Friday of a heart condition.

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Celebrate With Us!
30th Anniversary
20th
CENTURY-FOX

More Great Pictures in One Year

Moss Hart's **WIN**

A. J. Cronin's **THE KEYS OF THE**

THE FIGHTING

Laird Cregar · Linda Darnell · George Sanders in **HANG**

Betty Smith's **A TREE GROWS IN BRO**

Mary O'Hara's **THUNDER**

Tallulah Bankhead · Charles Coburn · Anne Baxter · William Eythe in Ernst Lubitsch's **A ROY**

At Popular Prices · Franz Werfel's **THE SONG OF**

Gracie Fields · Monty Woolley · Roddy McDowall in **MO**

Betty Grable and Dick Haymes in Billy Rose's **DIAMOND**

Than in the 30 Years Past

NGED VICTORY

E KINGDOM

G LADY in Technicolor · The Narrator is Lieut. Robert Taylor, U. S. N. R.

GOVER SQUARE

COKLYN with Dorothy McGuire · James Dunn · Joan Blondell · Peggy Ann Garner · Ted Donaldson · Lloyd Nolan

RHEAD SON OF FLICKA · in Technicolor with Roddy McDowall · Preston Foster · Rita Johnson

YAL SCANDAL

F BERNADETTE with Jennifer Jones · William Eythe

OLLY AND ME

O HORSESHOE in Technicolor

-and keep celebrating with.....

20th 30th ANNIVERSARY CENTURY-FOX

FRED MacMURRAY · JOAN LESLIE · JUNE HAVER in **"WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?"** IN TECHNICOLOR * * * CHARLES COBURN · WILLIAM EYTHE · JOAN BENNETT in BERRY FLEMING'S **"COLONEL EFFINGHAM'S RAID"** * * * GEORGE RAFT · JOAN BENNETT · VIVIAN BLAINE · PEGGY ANN GARNER in **"NOB HILL"** in TECHNICOLOR with ALAN "Falstaff Openshaw" REED * * * WILLIAM BENDIX · JOAN BLONDELL · PHIL SILVERS in **"DON JUAN QUILLIGAN"** * * * JOHN HERSEY'S **"A BELL FOR ADANO"** starring GENE TIERNEY · JOHN HODIAK · WILLIAM BENDIX * * * DARRYL F. ZANUCK'S **"WILSON"** in TECHNICOLOR * * * DANA ANDREWS · JEANNE CRAIN DICK HAYMES · VIVIAN BLAINE in **"STATE FAIR"** in TECHNICOLOR * * * BETTY GRABLE · JOHN PAYNE JUNE HAVER in **"THE DOLLY SISTERS"** in TECHNICOLOR * * * **"FALLEN ANGEL"** * * * FRED MacMURRAY in **"CAPTAIN EDDIE"** * * * ERNST LUBITSCH'S **"DRAGONWYCK"** starring GENE TIERNEY · VINCENT PRICE * * * **"JUNIOR MISS"** starring PEGGY ANN GARNER * * * **"THE LITTLE HORSE"**

KEEP SELLING BONDS!

20th-Fox 30th Anniversary in April

Third Decade Celebration For 20th-Fox

(Continued from page 1)

Schenck, executive head of production; Darryl F. Zanuck, vice-president in charge of production, and Tom Connors, vice president in charge of sales. In its early years the company introduced full-length Western pictures with Tom Mix as the star, made William Farnum a rival of Douglas Fairbanks in dashing romantic films, and introduced star teams such as Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell, and the lusty pair, Edmund Lowe and Victor McLaglen in "What Price Glory" and "The Cockeyed World." The studio today is following that tradition in essaying new trends in production.

Joseph M. Schenck

The history of 20th Century-Fox has been one of steady growth despite the many vicissitudes that have to be overcome in a young and growing industry. Following a period of shifting financial interests, which are the birth pangs of any embryonic organization, the old Fox Film Corp. did not take up its corporate form until February, 1915, but it actually got its start 12 years earlier when William Fox opened a small theatre in Brooklyn. Soon more theatres were added and then came the palaces which were the forerunners of the modern theatres. Charles Skouras heads National Theatres, the company's present-day exhibition affiliate.

With the addition of a chain of theatres the problem of supplying them with film arose. In 1913 the Box Office Attractions Co. was organized as the production unit for the rapidly growing Fox theatre interests, turning out 35 pictures to supply the theatres' demands. The first picture produced at the small studio at Fort Lee, N. J., was "Life's Shop Window," starring Claire Whitney, for release Nov. 19, 1914. The picture cost $14,700 and grossed $54,000.

Darryl Zanuck

On February 1st, 1915, Fox Film Corp. was incorporated with headquarters at 130 West 46th St., New York City and with studios at Fort Lee. Theda Bara became the company's first star in the production "A Fool There Was," released on Jan. 14, 1915. This picture, filmed at a cost of $29,500, grossed $137,000, an unheard of gross at that time.

Soon after, the production schedule was increased to 52 pictures a year. More studio space was required so the company acquired the Wonderful Play and Players studio in the Pathe Freres Building in Jersey City. "Children of the Ghetto," the Israel Zangwill book, was filmed there and it beat the box office receipts of "A Fool There Was."

Having more pictures now than they needed to supply their own theatres, it was decided to establish a system of film exchanges to sell pictures to theatres other than their own. From a beginning of a dozen branches scattered throughout the United States in April, 1915, there are now 37 film exchanges throughout the country and Canada, and before World War II, 44 branches scattered throughout the world.

1915 Coast Start

In 1915, an office was opened in Los Angeles and four studios, the Pathe, Kalem, Life Photo Studio and the Selig Studio, all in Los Angeles, were leased for production, and the company began building a roster of its own stars, by adding the names of William Farnum, Annette Kellerman and Robert Mantell. These stars moved into the company's own studio in 1917. It was located at Sunset Boulevard and Western Avenue in Hollywood and is still in use.

Winfield Sheehan was appointed general manager of the company and expansion in the foreign field began. Later he became production chief in Hollywood. Now fully intrenched in production, distribution and exhibition fields, Fox Film in 1917 made the first million-dollar picture, "The Daughter of the Gods," starring the Australian swimmer, Annette Kellerman, and directed by Herbert Brenon. Soon after came "Cleopatra," starring Theda Bara, 'Riders of the Purple Sage," with William Farnum. Later Tom Mix joined the roster of stars and was destined to become one of the most popular and profitable Western stars ever to come to the screen.

Charles Skouras

In 1919 the studio and home offices on 56th Street and Tenth Ave., New York were built. The Fox newsreel was also established that year.

Then followed such pictures as "Over the Hill," in 1921; "If Winter Comes," in 1923; "Seventh Heaven" in 1927, and then sound pictures.

In 1926 the Fox officials were approached by Theodore Case and Earl I. Sponable who said they were working on a sound-on-film invention by means of electric flashes on the film. By 1928 their experiments were crowned with success and Movietone was born. "Sunrise" was the first picture to have an accompanying musical score on the film and "In Old Arizona" was the first outdoor picture produced with sound.

On April 1st, 1932, Sidney R. Kent joined the company in the capacity of executive vice-president in charge of operations, and two weeks later became the company's president. He immediately started the work of reorganizing the company, saving it from bankruptcy and putting it on a sound operating basis. In 1935 the company had completely emerged from its economic difficulties and was again a force in the industry.

Merger with 20th

One day in April, 1935, Sidney Kent had lunch with Joseph M. Schenck, then president of Twentieth Century Pictures, and their topic of conversation was Darryl Zanuck, the upshot being the merger of Twentieth Century Films and the Fox Film Corp. On August 22, 1935, this arrangement was ratified by the stockholders. Hence the year 1945 marks not only the 30th anniversary of the company but also the 10th anniversary of the merger of Twentieth Century and Fox.

The advent of Darryl Zanuck as production head of the newly merged companies, marked one of the most important forward steps in the company's history. The vast studio of 96 acres at Movietone City came under the direction of Zanuck. The only stars on the lot at that period were Shirley Temple, Will Rogers and Janet Gaynor. His first task was to augment this star contingent and he soon had such screen names as Tyrone Power, Sonja Henie, Don Ameche, Warner Baxter, Alice Faye and Henry Fonda.

Zanuck's First

Zanuck's first picture for the new company was "Metropolitan," starring Lawrence Tibbett, and then in succession he produced "Alexander's Rag Time Band" (1938); "Grapes of Wrath" (1940); "How Green Was My Valley" (1941); "Song of Bernadette" (1944); "Wilson" and "Winged Victory."

With declaration of war, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the company was faced with the problem of building new stars to take the place of Tyrone Power, Henry Fonda, Cesar Romero, George Montgomery, Richard Green, John Sutton and Victor Mature, who joined the United States armed forces. Not only was the star roster depleted by the patriotic enlistment of stellar players but the ranks of producers, directors, cameramen and technicians also were cut by the demands of of our armed forces. Zanuck was commissioned a colonel in the Army Signal Corps and was away from the studio for nearly two years on active military duty. New players and new technicians were groomed to take the places of those who were off to war. Naturally most of them were girls: such promising actresses as June Haver, Vivian Blaine, Jeanne Crain, Anne Baxter and Jane Ball. Among the new male stars developed were Dana Andrews, William Eythe, and Dick Haymes.

Sidney Kent's Death

On the death of Sidney Kent in 1942, the board of directors looked about to fill that vacancy and the unanimous choice was that of Spyros Skouras who had made an enviable reputation as one of the foremost theatre operators in the United States. A short time later Wendell Willkie was elected chairman of the board of directors of the company, a berth he held until his death late in 1944.

With its background of 30 years of progress in production and distribution 20th Century-Fox looks to the future. Officials of the company feel that in the post war period the importance of motion pictures, not only as entertainment but also in the fields of education and international relations, will be greater than ever before and plans are now being formulated to meet this opportunity.

Connors Sets 28 Releases From 20th-Fox

Tom Connors, vice-president in charge of sales of 20th Century-Fox, in commemorating the company's 30th anniversary, announces a release schedule of 28 pictures from now to the end of the year.

Tom Connors

Heading the releases for April, the company's birthday month, will be Ernst Lubitsch's 'A Royal Scandal," "Molly and Me," and the popular priced run of 'The Song of Bernadette." The screen version of Betty Smith's "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," a special March release, also will be current during the anniversary month.

Anniversary Releases

Among the 30th anniversary releases of the next few months will be the following:

"Thunderhead" and "Circumstantial Evidence" (March); "A Royal Scandal," "Molly and Me" and popular-priced release of "Song of Bernadette" (April); "Diamond Horseshoe" and "The Bull Fighters" (May); "Where Do We Go from Here?" and "Colonel Effingham's Raid" (June); "Nob Hill" and "Don Juan Quilligan" (July); "A Bell for Adano," "State Fair" and popular-priced release of "Wilson" (August); "The Dolly Sisters" and two Bryan Foy productions (September); "Fallen Angel" and "Captain Eddie" (October); "Dragonwyck" and two Bryan Foy productions (November); "Junior Miss" and "Little Horse" (December).

Of the twenty-eight films scheduled for release between now and next January, nine will be in Technicolor. Of these, four will be musicals.

10th Anniversary For March of Time; Growth Was Rapid

It is 10 years since the first issue of The March of Time appeared on the screens of U. S. theatres. Today, over 12,000 theatres all over the world show The March of Time. The first issue was shown in exactly 417 theatres.

Richard de Rochemont

Volume I, Number 1 contained six subjects, in contrast to the single subject treated in today's issues.

In Volume II, one of the six subjects was devoted to a rising political figure in Europe, Adolf Hitler. This issue contained also pictures of Sir Basil Zaharoff, the munitions king. A March of Time cameraman got these pictures by disguising himself as a fruit peddler in a Cannes railroad station, concealing his camera under a bunch of bananas.

A similar trick was used by Richard de Rochemont, MOT producer, to get pictures of the elusive "Papa" Deibler, France's public executioner. A MOT cameraman lay in wait for days in a restaurant across the street from his quarry's apartment, got pictures, with a telescopic lens, of Deibler in his nightshirt.

Outstanding MOT productions since included: "Japan, Master of the Orient," which told of the militaristic ambitions of Nipponese war lords; "Inside Nazi Germany," which told of the plans then being carried out by the Nazis to prepare the German nation for World War II.

March of Time's future schedule includes a film on America's West Coast, one on wartime Britain and one on Mexico.

Kupper and Others Among Fox Veterans

With William J. Kupper, general sales manager of 20th Century-Fox, leading the parade, the company's 30th anniversary celebration in April will find 97 more members of 20th-Fox entering their 25th year with the organization, making a total of well over 100.

Willam Kupper

However, there are at least 110 others for whom 1945 will mark a longer period of service; and there are at least 24 who will celebrate their 28th anniversary with the company sometime this year. More than 400 employees will celebrate two decades with 20th-Fox before the end of the anniversary year.

1,621 Features in Thirty Years, Connors Reports

IN its 30-year history from 1915 to 1945, which 20th Century-Fox is celebrating this month, the company has released 1,621 features, according to Tom Connors, vice-president in charge of sales. This is an average of 54 pictures a year.

The film required for the pictures, based on an average of 6,000 feet per picture and one hundred prints averaged for each of the 1,621 features, would reach around the world a little under eight times. It is estimated that the total film used amounted to 9,726,000,000 feet—or 184,200 miles.

In the early days of the company many of the feature pictures were not more than 5,000 feet in length, and not until the last few years has the practice of making 10,000 feet features been in vogue. Of the 1,621 pictures, the company produced 1,534 in its own studios, 15 were made by British producers, thirty-two by other foreign companies and forty by outside American producers.

The company's 30-year history actually began with the release of a picture called "Life's Shop Window," starring Claire Whitney and Stuart Holmes, in November, 1914; but it was not until the release of "A Fool There Was" with Theda Bara in the stellar role that its future began to show promise. In 1915 the only releases were "A Fool There Was" and "Kreutzer's Sonata," both with Theda Bara. The following year the company released six pictures and the number has increased since.

Yesterday and Today—at Fox

Theda Bara

Betty Grable

June Caprice

Maureen O'Hara

Annette Kellerman

Linda Darnell

Lois Moran

Sheila Ryan

Movietone News Is 26 Years Old; Had Notable 'Firsts'

Twentieth Century-Fox's Movietone News, the first sound newsreel, made its debut on December 3, 1927, a full year ahead of any of its present day competitors, according to company statements.

Edmund Reek

The newsreel organization, turning out 104 issues a year under the direction of Edmund Reek, started in 1918. However, the first reel was not released until 1919; thus, this great news gathering organization is today celebrating its 26th anniversary, in conjunction with 20th's 30th anniversary.

At the start of World War II it had cameramen in 51 countries and had nine producing centers in the important capitals of the world. From these centers, which were New York, London, Paris, Berlin, Stockholm, Madrid, Sydney, Shanghai and Tokyo, it supplied every country in the world, except Russia, with newsreels.

Among the innovations in news presentation originating with Movietone News was that of getting "names" and specialists to do the narration; the policy of getting experts to direct coverage and the departmentalization of the subject material. It was also the first reel to use the mixed sound track with music and sound effects superimposed on the natural sound, the company says.

As a news gathering outfit it has scored many great beats and scoops on stories of international importance.

It scooped the world on the Jap attack on Pearl Harbor but had to surrender its film to the government.

30th Anniversary For Paul Terry

In conjunction with the 30th anniversary of 20th Century-Fox, Paul Terry, president of Terrytoons, is celebrating his 30th year in the film industry as a cartoon producer. It is his 10th year with 20th-Fox.

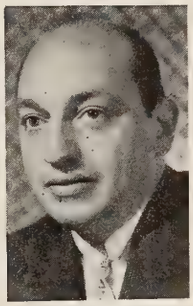
Paul Terry

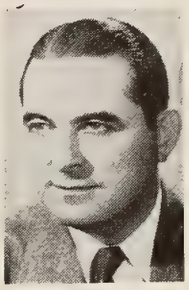
The production of his first cartoon required months of labor. The creation of the thousands of drawings, photographing them, and all the other incidental tasks of cartoon-making were part of Paul Terry's pioneering. Terrytoons now has a staff of over 100 turning out 20 Technicolor cartoons a year for release by 20th Century-Fox.

20th-Fox Officials Aid 30th Anniversary

W. C. Michel

Murray Silverstone


Joseph Moskowitz


Hal Horne

William Gehring

A. W. Smith

L. J. Schlaifer

Charles Schlaifer

Herman Wobber

William J. Clark

Felix Jenkins

HERMAN WOBBER, who was a veteran of seven exciting years in the youthful motion picture industry when the original Fox company was established in 1915, very properly was chosen drive leader for 20th Century-Fox's observance of the 30th anniversary of the company's founding. Wobber, 20th-Fox's Western division sales manager, entered the industry in 1908 and held outstanding posts in both exhibition and distribution during his lengthy industry career. He is being aided in the current anniversary observance program by numerous 20th-Fox executives and department heads, a number of whom are pictured above.

Miss Skouras Tells R.C. Benefit Plans

Plans have been completed for the staging of the Red Cross benefit show sponsored by the Greek division of the American Red Cross, to be held at Skouras's Academy of Music, here, Wednesday evening, it was announced by Daphne Dolores Skouras, member of the committee, who is in charge of the program; Miss Skouras is the daughter of Spyros Skouras, president of 20th Century-Fox.

Entertainers

In addition to the style show, at which Vyvyan Donner, 20th-Fox Movietone News style editor, will act as commentator, the following of screen, stage and radio will appear: Katina Paxinou, Danny Kaye, Sypros Stamos, Hazel Scott, Nicola Moscona, Zero Mostel, Elsa Maxwell, Pola Negri, Bob Dixon, Jon Sebastian, Harry Youngman, Pat Chokas, Bill Robinson, Jackie Miles, Carl Ravazza, Kitty Carlisle, Joan Edwards, Lew Lehr, Burl Ives, Sigmund Spaeth, Doris Doree, Dale Belmont, Thelma Carpenter, Jay Jostyn, Johnny Olson, Victor Borge, and the stage shows from the Roxy, Paramount, Club Zanzibar, La Martinique and Versailles.

Staging of the benefit is under the direction of Samuel Rausch and Arthur Knorr of the Roxy. Entire proceeds will be turned over to the Red Cross.

Canada Loan Picture Completed by 20th

TORONTO, March 25.—Shooting on "All Star Bond Rally" has been completed in the studios of 20th Century-Fox and the completed short subject to help sell Canada's Eighth Victory Loan will be delivered to Canada shortly.

"All Star Bond Rally" is the third loan picture to be made in Hollywood at the request of the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee and it will have a cast including Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Betty Grable, Fibber McGee and Molly, Harpo Marx, Harry James and his orchestra, Carmen Miranda, Vivian Blaine, Linda Darnell, Jeanne Crain, June Haver, Sheila Ryan, Faye Marlowe and Martha Stewart.

MPA Board Meets on Annual Dinner-Dance

Motion Picture Associates' board of directors, meeting here Friday, at Sardi's, discussed organization business, including the group insurance plan recently signed with Bankers Trust of New Jersey, and the annual dinner-dance to be held on May 26.

The group is understood to be considering production of a two-reeler to be distributed by exhibitors in this territory, proceeds of which would go to charity.

Morris Sanders of 20th-Fox is president; Jack Ellis of United Artists is vice-president of MPA.

Senft, Others Again Head Cinema Lodge

(*Continued from page* 1)

installed by Harry Brandt. Vice-presidents S. Arthur Glixon by Max Klein, Bernard Goodman by Philip Abrahams, Leo Jaffe by Adolph Schimel, Samuel Lefkowitz by Edward M. Schnitzer, William Melniker by Irving H. Greenfield, Alvin T. Sapinsley by Larry Morris; Norman Steinberg by Mortimer S. Rosenthal, Louis Weber by Harold L. Danson, Robert M. Weitman by Arthur Israel, Robert Wile by Philip Laufer, William Zimmerman by Arthur Jeffrey, Levin by Morris D. Senft, Levine by Louis Brandt, and Livingston by Charles Moss.

Treasurer Max Blackman will be installed by Harold Rodner, recording secretary Julius M. Collins by George A. Hoffman and corresponding secretary Herman Levine by Joseph D. Karp.

Bradshaw in Film Forum

March of Time associate producer D. Y. Bradshaw will speak today at the Philadelphia Motion Picture Forum luncheon, to be held in the Bellevue Stratford Hotel, that city. He will stress the importance of the motion picture as a preventive of future wars through the re-education of the people of the Axis nations and through encouraging mutual understanding among all nations.

Would Curtail Child Labor in Theatres

(*Continued from page* 1)

a new survey made by the State Division of Women, Child Labor and Minimum Wages, in cooperation with the Department of Education, which showed that two-fifths of all school children in nine up-state cities carry the double burden of school and work. Eleven per cent of the boys and three per cent of the girls are thus tied down for at least 60 hours each week. Pointing out that most of the students are working at odd jobs in theatres, bowling alleys, stores, restaurants, etc., Corsi said, "We are disturbed because of the effect such long hours will have on the health and education of the children."

Spier in Sturdivant Post in California

SAN FRANCISCO, March 25.—Richard Spier, formerly division manager for National's Fox West Coast Theatres in the East Bay area, has succeeded B. V. Sturdivant as manager of the Northern California division of the company. Sturdivant has been placed in charge of the company's expansion program in Central and South America by Charles P. Skouras, president, and has left for Mexico City.

Harry E. Seipel, manager of the peninsula division, succeeds Spier.

Cowan Plans Film On Correspondents

Lester Cowan announces that his next film will be "Free Press," a story of the newspaper combat correspondents throughout the world, an idea which grew out of a meeting recently held in New York by Cowan; Kent Cooper, of Associated Press; Hugh Baillie, United Press; Joseph V. Connolly, of International News Service; Cranston Williams, general manager of American Newspaper Publishers Association, and John S. Knight, publisher of the Knight Newspapers and president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

George J. Schaefer, recently named chairman of the board of Cowan Productions in charge of worldwide distribution, is expected to leave for the Coast soon to see Ernie Pyle's "Story of G.I. Joe," and for further discussions on "Free Press," which will be budgeted at $2,000,000. Distribution has not been set on the film; United Artists distributed Cowan's previous two productions.

Di Costanzo Rent Bill Passed by Assembly

ALBANY, March 25.—The DiCostanzo bill extending commercial rent control in New York City was passed in the Assembly Friday and sent to Governor Dewey for approval, with a freeze date that remains at the levels of June 1, 1944.

Theatres Must Show Film Records to Distributors

(*Continued from page* 1)

centage pictures where an exhibitor refuses to permit the contractual right of inspection.

The 27 exhibitors had sought an injunction to bar the distributors from examining their books on alleged fraudulent returns on percentage pictures. The exhibitors had also sought a declaratory judgment on the basis that percentage contracts violate the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

The Federal Court ruling is said to clear the way for the eight distributors to press almost 150 counter claims which have been filed against the 27 exhibitors involved. It will also enable the distributors to secure access to the exhibitors' records of receipts derived on each of 25,000 days of some 7,000 separate percentage pictures involved in the counter claims. Loew's and 20th Century-Fox have each brought 24 such claims; Paramount, 23; Universal, 19; RKO Radio, 18; Warner Bros., 17; Columbia, 14 and United Artists, 9.

Answers by the eight distributors in countering the attempt of the exhibitors to obtain an injunction and a declaratory judgment pointed out that the exhibitors had gone into Court asking for equitable relief because of alleged fraudulent practices in connection with percentage contracts about which they were complaining. The distributors had counter-claimed against all of the exhibitors served with percentage pictures for the same damages as had originally been sought by the eight distributors from the exhibitors operating the Arcade and Colonial theatres in Pittsburgh as the Carson Amusement Co. The original eight actions by the distributors against Carson Amusement had been on the basis of alleged fraudulent misrepresentation of receipts on percentage pictures exhibited, and punitive damages were sought.

Deane Carroll to Be Feted

BALTIMORE, March 25.—Deane Carroll, singing starlet now on a Midwest tour of film theatres, will be welcomed home by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Women's Club when she returns to Baltimore in May for an engagement at the Hippodrome Theatre here.

ITT in Newsreel Deal

Harry J. Rothman, chairman of the board of International Theatrical and Television Corp., reports that the company has consummated a deal with All American (Negro) News for world 16mm and television rights on the weekly newsreels produced by that company.

UA Sets Release Dates on 6 Films

HOLLYWOOD, March 25.—National release dates, ranging from March 31 to May 25 on six United Artists features were announced here by Carl Leserman, UA's general sales manager. Of the six, all are completed and one is in color.

The releases announced by Leserman are: March 31, "Delightfully Dangerous," a Charles R. Rogers Production; April 7, "Brewster's Millions," an Edward Small Production; April 21, "It's in the Bag," Jack H. Skirball Production; May 4, "Colonel Blimp," a British Rank-Archers Production, in color, written, produced and directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger; May 18, "Hold Autumn in Your Hand," a Loew-Hakim Production, and May 25, "The Great John L," a Bing Crosby Production.

The company had been forced to withhold releases for weeks because of a raw stock shortage for prints.

Testimonial Dinner For Al Suchman

Al Suchman, member of the buying committee of the Schine Circuit, will be given a testimonial dinner tomorrow evening at the Elm, Gloversville, N. Y., on his leaving to join Independent Theatre Service, Inc., here as film buyer.

Joe Lynch of the Schine Gloversville office, is in charge of arrangements.

Pinanski Sets Four 7th War Loan Aides

(Continued from page 1)

mittee made up of theatre operators brought in from the field for this specific purpose.

Joseph Kinsky will serve as chairman of the coordinating committee and will be in direct charge of the East. Kinsky is a Paramount theatre department executive, and was national coordinator during the Fifth War Loan.

Wilby-Kincey Theatres has loaned E. W. (Gene) Street of Knoxville to act as coordinator for the South. Street served as exhibitor state chairman for Eastern Tennessee in both the Fifth and Sixth War Loans.

David B. Wallerstein, theatre executive has been loaned by B. and K. Theatres to be coordinator for the Midwest. Wallerstein has been active in the field in his territory in all War Loan drives and other war activities.

Charles M. Thall, executive of Fox West Coast Theatres in Northern California, has been loaned by Charles Skouras, president of National Theatres, to act as coordinator for the West Coast. Thall was Northern California exhibitor state chairman in the Fifth War Loan. He will leave today from San Francisco to assume his new duties at Seventh War Loan headquarters in New York.

Pinanski stated that it is the national committee's intention to maintain liaison at all times between Seventh War Loan headquarters in New York and state committees.

'Red' Barber Calls For Red Cross Aid

'Red' Barber, sportscaster, now handling the American Red Cross 1945 War Fund drive in the Greater New York area, on Saturday, requested *Motion Picture Daily* and other trade and news publications to direct special Red Cross campaign appeals for the rest of the month specifically to individuals who have not yet contributed to the fund this year.

Griesdorf Made Odeon West Division Head

TORONTO, March 25.—Dave Griesdorf, British Columbia supervisor of the Odeon circuit, has been appointed Western division general manager, with offices on the West Coast, where Odeon has 33 theatres, it is learned here. C. J. Appel has been named Eastern manager, as reported Friday in MOTION PICTURE DAILY.

Ansco Buys Building For Film Processing

The Ansco division of General Aniline and Film Corp. has purchased a building in Chicago for processing 16 mm motion picture film, George W. Burpee, president, announces.

Reason behind the purchase is to take care of an expansion of the company's activities in the Mid-West.

Industry Pre-Trial Conference Today

(Continued from page 1)

he would rule against the Government, if an immediate decision was forced on him. It is deemed unlikely by attorneys, that the court will grant the injunction now, with a definite trial date of Oct. 8 already set.

At the conference today an attempt will also be made to settle on the issues to be tried and to agree, if possible, on some of the issues. The court requested this procedure so that a time limit could be placed on the case. It has been estimated that the trial could drag on for from a year to 18 months before all testimony is in. The two main issues at stake, on which there can apparently be no agreement, are demands by the Department of Justice for an end to clearance and a divorcement of theatres by producer-distributors.

Nickerson Setting Griffith Details

Robert E. Nickerson of the law firm of Dwight, Harris, Koegel and Caskey, counsel for 20th Century-Fox, left New York last night for Oklahoma City, where he will spend several weeks in preparation for the Griffith trial, which is scheduled to get underway May 7.

Nickerson is representing the five consent decree distributors and he will cooperate with Griffith attorneys and the Government in setting trial procedure.

Golden Will Release Next Through UA

(Continued from page 1)

Hollywood," featuring Tom Breneman, radio star. Breneman will return to Hollywood this morning from a Red Cross tour of the Midwest to open the restaurant from which his "Breakfast in Hollywood" broadcast will originate. Earl Baldwin will write the screenplay and production is scheduled to start July 1.

Edward and Robert Golden produced "Hitler's Children" and "The Master Race," released through RKO Radio, while Dembow was formerly a Paramount vice-president. Officers of the new company are: Dembow, president; Edward Golden, chairman of the board, Robert Golden, vice-president in charge of production.

New Music Hall Record

Radio City Music Hall had its biggest opening day last Thursday when "Without Love" and the theatre's Easter stage show drew 23,930 patrons who paid $17,856. Previous opening day attendance record was 20,930.

Bond Here on New Unit

Anson Bond, who with Leslie Charteris has organized the Bond-Charteris Co., Hollywood, for the production of shorts for television and the production of motion pictures of "The Saint," arrived in New York on Saturday to complete various arrangements of the firm's business.

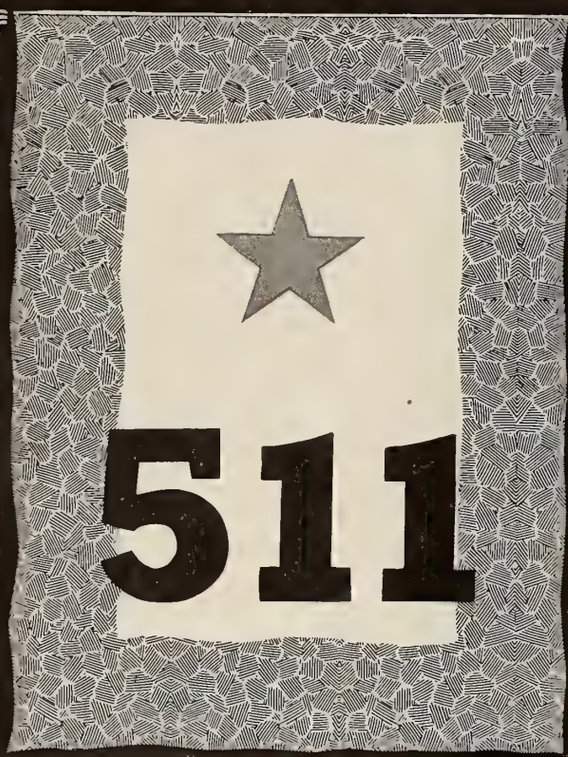
G. C. F. *presents*

"Colonel Blimp"

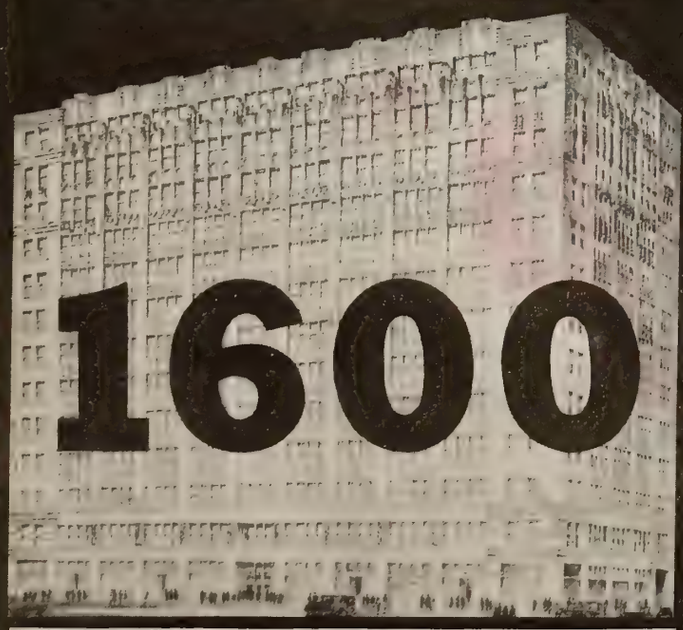
In Lavish TECHNICOLOR!

Another Glorious U. A. Hit!

In the SERVICE



At Your SERVICE



Yep... FIVE HUNDRED AND ELEVEN of our boys and girls have gone to War... to give Uncle Sam ... the services they used to give YOU * * * Meanwhile ... there are SIXTEEN HUNDRED boys and girls in the PRIZE BABY'S organization ... trying to keep your screens aglow ... with TRAILERS ... and your lobbies bright ... with ACCESSORIES * * * YEP ... SIXTEEN HUNDRED ... just about ONE NSS EMPLOYEE for every TEN EXHIBITORS in these United States * * * That's a lot of SERVICE ... especially in War Times ... but ... some of these boys and girls are NEW at their jobs ... and can't quite manage to give you the outstanding service you're accustomed to receiving from the Prize Baby * * * However ... along with the rest of us ... they're AT YOUR SERVICE ... doing their best * * * We knew you'd UNDERSTAND ... once you knew how hard they were TRYING ... THANKS.

NATIONAL *Screen* SERVICE
PRIZE BABY OF THE INDUSTRY

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 59 NEW YORK, U.S.A., TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1945 TEN CENTS

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Violators of Curfew Will Be Penalized

Employment Ceilings to Be Dropped to 'Zero'

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The War Production Board was disclosed today to be prepared to invoke priority penalties upon violators of the curfew certified to it by the War Manpower Commission as having violated employment ceilings, but it was indicated the Board would not initiate action against violators by suspending their light, power or fuel service.

The Board's policy throws the burden of denouncing violators upon the WMC, which is to

(*Continued on page* 17)

Appoint Lesser N.Y. 7th Loan Chairman

Irving Lesser, associate general manager of the Roxy Theatre on Broadway, has accepted the invitation of Samuel Pinanski, national chairman of the film industry's participation in the Seventh War Loan, May 14-June 30, to act as Metropolitan New York chairman. Lesser's appointment was made in consultation with Samuel Rinzler and Fred Schwartz, co-chairmen of the New York area War Activities Committee, and

Irving Lesser

(*Continued on page* 17)

Federal Tax Returns Up to $26,298,412

WASHINGTON, March 27.—Recovery from the usual year-end slump at theatres was noted today by the U. S. Internal Revenue Bureau, which reported that admission tax collections in February (covering January busi-

(*Continued on page* 17)

Mark Time on Probe For 'Little Men'

Washington, March 26.—Members of the Senate Small Business Committee will decide within the next day or two whether they will make an investigation of the motion picture industry to determine the situation of small enterprises.

The Committee's staff has made a lengthy study of the motion picture situation, it was stated, but Dewey Anderson, executive secretary, emphasized that no decision has been made. However, he added, the results of the studies have been compiled and the Committee may have a statement on the matter within a few days.

General Precision Net: $1,138,147

Consolidated net income of General Precision Equipment Corp. for 1944 amounted to $1,138,147 after deduction of $2,866,700 for Federal income taxes, compared with $1,255,907 in 1943. The 1944 net was equivalent to approximately $1.94 per share on 586,087 shares of capital stock outstanding, against $2.14 the previous year, Earle G. Hines, president of the company, told stockholders in his annual report sent out yesterday.

Because of the amendment to the New York State Franchise Tax Law requiring that liabilities for that tax

(*Continued on page* 9)

'Love', 'Co-Pilot' Top B'way First Runs; 8 New Films Opening

Two new arrivals at Broadway first-run theatres are scoring outstanding business while holdovers are generally registering well in a satisfactory pre-Easter week, all aided by good weather. Theatres are now back to midnight closings despite Mayor LaGuardia's "hour of tolerance." Eight new films will arrive at the first-runs this week.

"Without Love" and Radio City Music Hall's traditional Easter show are combining to give the theatre an outstanding week with $75,500 recorded for the first four days and a big $123,500 anticipated for the week. "God Is My Co-Pilot" and a stage show featuring Cab Calloway and his band are also drawing top receipts,

(*Continued on page* 9)

Fail to Reach Decree Peace

Inability of defendant companies to reach an agreement with the Department of Justice which would avert trial of the pending anti-trust suit was admitted yesterday by Robert L. Wright, Special Assistant to the U. S. Attorney General, at a pre-trial conference before Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard in U. S. District court here yesterday.

Although the conference was de-

(*Continued on page* 9)

Control of Manpower in Hands of War Mobilizer

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Conferees on the manpower bill today signed a compromise measure giving the Director of War Mobilization the authority to prescribe employe ceilings in areas, activities and individual establishments and 'freezing' essential workers in their jobs.

Both male and female labor, regardless of age, are covered by the compromise bill, which is expected to come up in the House tomorrow. One of the features of the new legislation is the authority given the Government to pay traveling expenses of workers moving to a new location at the 'request' of Federal authorities.

Penalties ranging up to 12 months in prison and a fine not exceeding $10,000 are provided for violation of the act and, in addition, an employer violating manpower ceilings will not be permitted to deduct wages or salaries paid excess workers in preparing his income tax return.

The scope of the measure is set forth in its initial section, where Congress declares: "Every individual not in the Armed Forces shall have an obligation, when called upon, to serve the Nation in an activity essential to the war effort.

"The purposes of this Act are to provide the most practicable and effective means to accomplish the fulfillment of such an obligation and to provide for making the most effective use of the man-power resources of the Nation," it was added.

Hays Warns of Laxities on Film Standards

Releases Annual Report After MPPDA Meet

The screen has won a signal victory during the war over the pressures and temptations that might have tended to relax the standards of motion picture production, Will H. Hays, president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, declared in his annual report to the industry, released here yesterday, following the annual meeting of the association. Thus far, in war as in peace, he said, the structure of self-regula-

Will H. Hays

(*Continued on page* 6)

Hays Is Reelected MPPDA President

Will H. Hays was reelected president; Carl H. Milliken, secretary; George Borthwick, treasurer, and F. W. Du Vall, assistant treasurer, at the annual MPPDA meeting held here yesterday. Joseph I. Breen, designated last December as vice-president and director of the Production Code Administration, continues in that capacity.

Board of directors for the new year are: Barney Balaban, Nate J. Blum-

(*Continued on page* 6)

Walsh and Casey to Tackle Strike Here

HOLLYWOOD, March 26.—All factions concerned today reported conditions unchanged as the studio strike against the producers entered its third week, and attention turned to the East in expectation that the next important move for settlement will be made there.

With Richard F. Walsh, IATSE

(*Continued on page* 9)

Boost in Equipment Prices is Refused

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Manufacturers of photographic equipment preparing for reconversion to civilian production have been warned by the Office of Price Administration that until they can definitely show higher costs on their new output they will have to adhere to March, 1942 price levels.

The OPA disclosed today that it had given this information to members of the photographic equipment manufacturers' industry WPB advisory committee at a meeting at which a request was made for a higher ceiling because of increased material and labor costs.

OPA officials explained to the committee that it was impossible to grant higher maximum prices on mere anticipations of increased costs and that it would be necessary for the industry to get back into normal production before action could be taken. To secure an increase, it was said, it would be necessary to submit actual cost data based on normal output, and it was pointed out that such figures could not be prepared now or while an industry is in process of reconversion.

Plan Montague 20th Anniversary Awards

Plans for Columbia's 'Montague 20th Anniversary' campaign, named in honor of general sales manager A. Montague, call for a series of awards to be given to sales personnel. The campaign got under way March 16 and will continue for 15 weeks, through June 28.

As announced by Rube Jackter, assistant general sales manager and chairman of the campaign, the award set-up will provide an opportunity for participation on the part of all sales and booking personnel in the 31 exchanges of Columbia Pictures.

The plan is a comprehensive one, designed to emphasize the individual achievements of each member of the Columbia sales staff. A series of national awards, based on billings, have been set up and the prizes will go to the manager, salesmen, office managers and bookers of the 20 offices which have achieved the highest percentage of their 1944-45 billings quotas.

Screen Extras Guild Launched on Coast

HOLLYWOOD, March 26.—The Screen Extras Guild, a new organization headed by the veteran extra Larry Steers and launched since the Screen Players Union and the Screen Actors Guild came to an impasse on jurisdiction over workers doing bits, stunts and singing, today telegraphed the AAAA executive board its application for a charter. The board meets in New York tomorrow. Organizers have been circulating petitions since the SPU-SAG conflict was referred to the National Labor Relations Board on an appeal from the producers and SAG for revision of terms of the certification given SPU.

Personal Mention

NEIL F. AGNEW, Vanguard vice-president in charge of distribution, will leave New York for London in two weeks.

•

CPL. NORMAN ROLFE, former Connecticut manager for Lockwood and Gordon Theatre Circuit, celebrated his eighth wedding anniversary recently. His wife is manager of the Webb, Wethersfield, Conn.

•

JAMES P. MULVEY, Samuel Goldwyn Productions New York general manager, arrived in Hollywood yesterday from New York accompanied by HARRY ARCHINAL, of the accounting department.

•

WILLIAM GLEICHER, of the M-G-M sales department has arrived in Los Angeles from San Francisco. He will visit Salt Lake City and Denver before returning to New York.

•

N. PETER RATHVON, RKO president, arrived on the Coast over the weekend from New York. He is scheduled to return April 9.

•

BARNEY BALBAN, MRS. BALBAN and daughter, JUDITH, and EDWIN WEISL, returned to New York yesterday from the Coast.

•

PHIL WILLIAMS, March of Time advertising director, will return to New York tomorrow from a 10-day trip to the Midwest.

•

WALTER L. TITUS, JR., Republic branch operations head, is in Detroit. He will return to New York next Monday.

•

KIRBY BURNS of Famous Players' Canadian booking department, has returned to his job following 30 months of service in England.

•

LT. COL. FREDERICK P. HENDERSON, formerly of Eastman Kodak, has been awarded the Bronze Star for work on Guam.

•

ELMER DAVIS, OWI director, arrived in London from New York yesterday.

•

E. H. GROTH, RKO Theatres New England division manager, is visiting New York from Boston.

•

PHIL BOBYS, Washington M-G-M salesman, has returned there from New York.

•

CPL. PAUL AMADEO, former assistant manager for E. M. LEOW, Hartford, is home after two years in Italy.

•

GLENN IRETON, Warner Canada field representative, is en route to Vancouver from New York.

HAL B. WALLIS will arrive in New York from the Coast early next month.

•

ARTHUR C. BROMBERG, president, and HAROLD COHEN, special sales representative of Monogram Southern exchanges, have returned to Atlanta from New York.

•

RAY SCHMERTZ, son of I. J. SCHMERTZ, 20th-Fox Cleveland branch manager, was tendered a farewell industry dinner prior to entering service yesterday.

•

CHARLES SKOURAS, National Theatres Corp. president, left the Coast yesterday for New York, accompanied by his wife and MR. and MRS. MIKE ROSENBERG.

•

GLORIA JEAN GOLD, daughter of HARRY GOLD of United Artists, has been married to LT. SEYMOUR UDELL, USNR.

•

MRS. MAX LEFKOWICH, head of the Community Circuit, is recuperating from an operation at Mt. Sinai Hospital, Cleveland.

•

DENNIS WRATTEN, manager of the film technical service of Kodak, Ltd., London, is visiting the company offices here, and will go to the Coast soon.

•

MERRITT DAVIS, Republic Southern manager has returned to Atlanta from the Coast.

•

NAT TURBERG, Northio city manager at Hamilton, Ohio, is visiting Florida with his wife.

•

NELSON TROWBRIDGE, Cincinnati theatre manager, is ill in General Hospital there.

•

J. S. JOSSEY and KROGER BABB, co-producers, returned to Cleveland last week from the South.

•

WILLIAM BAKER, Republic Midwest head, has returned to Chicago from a two-week Coast trip.

•

JOHN BALABAN, Balaban and Katz Theatre Corp. head, is on a 10-day vacation.

•

LEON FROMKESS, PRC president, is expected in New York from the Coast about April 15.

•

BILL HOYLE, of Lichtman Theatres, Washington, arrived in New York yesterday.

•

DAVID ROBINSON, formerly with E. M. Loew's, Hartford, is now a major in Belgium.

•

JOHN JENKINS, president of Astor Pictures, Dallas, is visiting Atlanta.

Louis Meyer Dies

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., March 26.—Louis Meyer, former publisher of *The Theatre Magazine* and onetime Commissioner of Parks and Docks of New Rochelle, died in New Rochelle Hospital, where he had been taken following the death of his wife ten days ago. He was 74 years old.

Celestials' Lunch Today

A program of special entertainment for the next monthly luncheon of the Celestials, today, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel includes Danny Kaye, Jackie Gleason, Earl Wrightson and the Ink Spots. Groups of recently returned veterans will be guests of the Celestials.

Buck and Meyer Are Reelected by ASCAP

Eli E. Oberstein, chairman of the committee on elections, will certify to the ASCAP board of directors tomorrow, the following results of the annual election:

For the writers in the popular-music field: Gene Buck was re-elected by a vote of 75,242; George W. Meyer, by 71,036; Ray Henderson, by 70,439. In the standard-music field: John Tasker Howard replaced the incumbent director, Geoffrey O'Hara by a vote of 48,915.

For the publishers, in the popular field: Max Dreyfus, Crawford Music Corp., 5,166; John J. O'Connor, Warock Music Co., 5,112; Jack Mills, Mills Music, Inc., 4,800. In the standard field: Donald H. Gray, H. W. Gray Co., Inc., 4,507. These directors were all incumbents.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. and 6th Ave.
Spencer TRACY Katharine HEPBURN
"WITHOUT LOVE"
LUCILLE BALL
A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE &
The Music Hall's Great Easter Stage Show

STATE
ON SCREEN "PAN AMERICANA" PHILLIP TERRY AUDREY LONG
IN PERSON Tommy DIX Extra! Menasha SKULNIK

Paramount presents Veronica LAKE Sonny TUFTS Eddie Brackken Marjorie Reynolds "BRING on the GIRLS"
In Person The Ink Spots Ella Fitzgerald Buck & Bubbles Cootie Williams and his Orchestra
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Dick Powell
Claire Trevor - Anne Shirley
"Murder, My Sweet"
AN RKO RADIO PICTURE

SAMUEL GOLDWYN Presents
BOB HOPE
'THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE'
in Technicolor
Continuous Doors open 8:30 A.M.
ASTOR Broadway & 45th Street
Popular Prices

WALT DISNEY'S
'The THREE CABALLEROS'
in TECHNICOLOR
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
NOW - - - Brandt's GLOBE

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday, and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Theo Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq. London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1945 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10.

Fisher Made Chief Booker for Odeon

TORONTO, March 26.—Further reorganization of Odeon Theatres of Canada in anticipation of quick post-war expansion moves has brought the appointment of Frank Fisher as chief booker and film buyer of the circuit's headoffice after serving as executive assistant to general manager A. W. Perry of Empire-Universal-Films. Fisher, who has served many years in the industry as branch manager at Calgary and Montreal before coming to Toronto, succeeds F. Ralph Dale, the latter becoming a partner in the Sam Fingold circuit in Ontario. The latter is associated with Canadian Odeon.

It has been stated that Canadian Odeon, now with 103 owned or controlled theatres, will launch a drive for the construction of 50 houses within two years after the war in Europe. These will seat from 800 to 1,500 patrons and will cost from $75,000 to $150,000 with a uniformity of architectural style in which certain features of British design will be incorporated.

Schnitzer, Buchanan Address Canada Meet

MONTREAL, March 26.—Opening session of a United Artists sales meeting at the Mount Royal Hotel here today was highlighted by a complete sales analysis and merchandising plan on the company's current product. Edward M. Schnitzer, home office executive, presided at the meeting, which was attended by the company's six Canadian branch managers. In discussing both current and new productions, Schnitzer revealed sales plans and policies to be followed on each picture. Barry Buchanan, UA director of advertising-publicity addressed the delegates and outlined merchandising plans on new pictures.

Among the Canadian branch managers in attendance at the meeting were Charles Chaplin, Montreal; J. H. Reid, Calgary; George Heiber, St. John; Douglas Rosen, Toronto; Harry Woolfe, Vancouver; Abe Feinstein, Winnipeg; Sam Kunitzky, Montreal, and Al. Iscove, Toronto. Schnitzer, Buchanan and Herb Berg will arrive in New York tomorrow morning.

Welles Will Answer DeMille for AFRA

HOLLYWOOD, March 26.—Orson Welles will speak over the Mutual Network Saturday for the American Federation of Radio Artists in reply to Cecil B. DeMille who has been suspended from the AFRA for failure to pay a one dollar assessment voted by the membership.

DeMille, speaking over Mutual on March 17, gave his side of the case. He contended that the issue was a public one and not requiring the union levy. Thus far, AFRA has been sustained by Judge Wilson of California Supreme Court. DeMille is appealing the decision but in the meantime he is off his regular CBS Lux Radio Theatre program.

Irving Rapper Feted

A reception in honor of Irving Rapper for his latest directional production for Warners, "The Corn Is Green", was held at the Sherry Netherland Hotel, here, yesterday.

180,000 Shares of Stock Offered by Bell & Howell

CHICAGO, March 27.—A registration statement covering 30,000 shares of cumulative preferred stock, four and one-quarter per cent series, par value $100 per share, and 150,000 shares of common stock, par value $10 per share, was filed by Bell and Howell with the Securities and Exchange Commission in Philadelphia today, J. H. McNabb, president, announces. This offering will constitute the first public offering of securities of Bell and Howell in its history.

The 150,000 shares of common are to be sold by certain present stockholders and involve no new financing on the part of the corporation. The preferred stock represents new financing by the corporation, which plans to use the proceeds from its sale in part for the purchase of the Lincolnwood Plant, now operated under lease from the Defense Plant Corp., and in part to pay for a contemplated addition to this plant. Any balance remaining will be added to working capital of the corporation. Sinking fund provisions and call prices of the preferred stock will be filed by amendment.

The filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission follows by less than a month the authorization, by stockholders, of 1,000,000 shares of common stock and 60,000 shares of cumulative preferred. It was announced at that time that marketing of an initial series of 30,000 shares of the preferred was contemplated and that half of the 1,000,000 shares of common would be issued and exchanged on a 25-for-one basis for the 20,000 shares of common stock of the par value of $25 per share which were held by individuals or in the company's treasury.

It is expected that when the registration statement becomes effective public offering of the four and one-quarter per cent series stock and the common stock will be made through a group of underwriters headed by Harriman, Ripley and Co., McNabb said.

Bell and Howell is primarily engaged in the design, production and sale of motion picture cameras and projectors and sound and picture-reproducing apparatus. Practically all of the company's peace-time products are being used either directly or indirectly for war purposes. In addition, the corporation has produced motion picture cameras, instruments and numerous training devices for the Armed Services.

After the war, Bell and Howell contemplate production of several new lines of cameras and projectors in the motion picture field, sound equipment for both the professional and amateur fields and the manufacture of still cameras and projectors, according to McNabb. In addition, the company contemplates production of several items which have been developed in the field of electronics.

Hope to Get Vivian Leigh Back in U.S.

LONDON, March 26.—With the High Court having granted an application to postpone action until next term on David O. Selznick's request for an injunction to restrain Vivian Leigh from appearing in a stage play here, Sir Walter Monckton, K.C., of Selznick's London counsel, states that he hopes to achieve a settlement of the controversy whereby Miss Leigh would return to the U. S. to make pictures.

The actress, under contract to Selznick, was granted a leave of absence to work in this country while her husband, Laurence Olivier, was in military service here.

Keese and Halper to Expedite RWLB Plea

William Keese of the law office of Dwight, Harris, Koegel and Caskey, here, representing 20th Century-Fox, and David Halper of the office of Judge Matthew M. Levy, IATSE attorney, left New York yesterday for Chicago to consult with regional War Labor Board officials there about pending applications for 10 per cent wage increases for film exchange service workers in Chicago, Indianapolis, Minneapolis and Milwaukee.

Mandell With FC

Harry Mandell, listed as a general partner in Film Classics Distributing Co. in MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday is a New York representative of the company and is not to be confused with Harry Mandel, advertising-publicity head of RKO Theatres.

D'Arcy Named Chief Of De Vry Engineers

CHICAGO, March 26.—Appointment of E. W. D'Arcy to the post of chief engineer of DeVry Corp. is announced by president William C. DeVry. Formerly research engineer of Essanay Film Corp., here, D'Arcy joined DeVry in 1940 in a similar capacity. In this post he contributed to design and production developments in the manufacture of motion picture sound, radar, navigating and gunnery training equipment for the Armed forces.

Local F37 Elects

CINCINNATI, Mar. 26.—Marie King, RKO branch treasurer, and Al Kokemeyer, of Universal, have been elected vice presidents of Film Workers Local No. F37. Re-elected were: George Daubmeyer, Warners, president; Gladys Pollak, M-G-M, secretary, and Robert Morrell, M-G-M, business manager.

Ontario Tax Threat Killed by Election

TORONTO, March 26.—With the defeat of the Ontario Government on a non-confidence vote in the Provincial Legislature and the calling of an early election, the danger of a Provincial amusement tax, on top of the Federal 20 per cent tax, is believed to have been passed for the 420 theatres in the territory.

When the late Government threatened to revive the impost in Ontario, leaders of rival parties made it known they opposed the re-introduction of Provincial amusement taxation. Mitchell F. Hepburn, House leader of one group, abolished the ticket levy in 1938 when he was Premier of the province on the ground that it was a nuisance tax although it brought $2,000,000 annually to the exchecquer. E. B. Jolliffe, opposition leader in the recent Legislature, also informally opposed the tax revival on the basis that it hit lower-wage classes.

FP-C Considering Entering Production

TORONTO, March 26.—Famous Players-Canadian circuit has under consideration a plan to enter production, initially with a program of 15 short subjects on Dominion documentary themes, it is learned, although company executives are not in a position to issue an official announcement as yet because a number of details remain to be worked out.

Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board of directors of Paramount, which owns substantial interests in FP-C, mentioned, when he spoke at the Canadian circuit's 25th anniversary celebration here recently, the possibility of the American parent company making short subjects in the Dominion, based on local themes.

PRC Gets Kulick's Franchise for N. Y.

Continuing its program of expansion in distribution, PRC has consummated plans whereby it will acquire the New York exchange on April 6, from Bert Kulick, recently appointed general manager of distribution. The exchange will continue to be managed by Frances Kulick.

Plans for the acquisition of additional exchanges in the near future now are under way, according to Leon Fromkess, PRC president, indicating the ultimate control of the major portion of the company's domestic distribution in the near future.

RKO RADIO PICTURES, INC.
NEW YORK TRADE SHOWING
OF
"TWO O'CLOCK COURAGE"
MONDAY, APRIL 2 . . . 2:30 P. M.
RKO Projection Room, 630 Ninth Ave., New York, N. Y.

"Add 'The Enchanted Cottage' to the ever-growing list of fine Hollywood efforts. By its own merits, this attraction carves itself a splendid niche ...Here is a film which rests heavily on the believability and the integrity of its principal performances and the steady, yet understanding, hand in its direction. It is a happy circumstance to report that this proves the case." —*MOTION PICTURE DAILY*

NATIONAL PRESENTATION IN MID-APRIL!

Get Credit for Your Red Cross Collection.
Send Your Report to Your Area Chairman.

"A natural, both as to box office and entertainment." —*Motion Picture Herald*

"Gives one the feeling of having discovered some rare jewel." —*Hollywood Reporter*

"Will play a merry tune at the box-office." —*Variety*

"One of the month's most noteworthy screen events." —*Boxoffice*

"In the top bracket." —*Hollywood Variety*

"Deeply moving . . . has tremendous appeal for women." —*Film Daily*

"Timely . . . should prove beneficial to box-office." —*Showmen's Trade Review*

"Unusual love story will get the women's vote." —*The Exhibitor*

Back in that strange world called "Home"

A pilot finds his dreams are shattered . . . a girl despairs of ever being adored . . . 'til they meet by a miracle of love and keep a rendezvous with rapture!

The story of a hero, facing his greatest crisis when he comes home to love again!

Dorothy McGuire · Robert Young

the Lovers of "Claudia"

Herbert Marshall

"the Enchanted Cottage"

Mildred Natwick · Spring Byington · Hillary Brooke · Richard Gain

Directed by John Cromwell · *Produced by* Harriet Parsons

Screen Play by DeWitt Bodeen and Herman J. Mankiewicz

Based on the play by Sir Arthur Wing Pinero

RKO RADIO PICTURES

RKO BACKS IT WITH TOP NATIONAL CAMPAIGN!

Full pages in the biggest national magazines to a total of

29,007,375 CIRCULATION

— Publications like WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION — McCALL'S — RED BOOK — COLLIER'S — LOOK — LIBERTY — WOMAN'S DAY — TRUE STORY — FAMILY CIRCLE and the ENTIRE FAN LIST. The ad reproduced herewith appears in Woman's Home Companion, Collier's, Woman's Day and three fan magazines.

Mass. Clearance Is Modified by Board

The award of the Boston tribunal declaring that maximum clearance on 20th Century-Fox, Paramount, RKO, Loew's and Warner product which the Norwood and Guild Theatres, Norwood, Mass., held over the Strand, Canton, Mass., shall be seven days, and abolishing clearance entirely for the State Theatre, Stoughton, Mass., over the Strand, has been modified by the Appeals Board, the American Arbitration Association reports.

Hereafter, the board ruled, maximum clearance over the Strand by the Norwood shall be 14 days and for the Guild, on pictures it plays first run, three days. No clearance shall be granted, the board further ruled, to the State over the Strand on any pictures with respect to which the Strand is subject to clearance in favor of the Norwood or Guild; and maximum clearance over the Strand which may be granted to the State on pictures to which the Strand is not subject to clearance, in favor of either theatres in Norwood, shall be seven days.

Canton Amusement Co., Inc., operates the Strand, George A. Giles Co., operates the Norwood and Guild; and Stoughton Theatre Operating Co. operates the State.

THREE ASSOCIATED SERVICES

FREE & PETERS, Inc.

James L. Free, *Chairman.* H. Preston Peters, *President.* Since 1932, exclusive national sales representatives of leading radio stations from coast to coast. Offices in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, San Francisco and Hollywood. Now planning post-war expansion in FM and Television representation.

WRIGHT-SONOVOX, Inc.

James L. Free, *President.* Ward R. Hickok, *General Manager.* Since 1941, exclusive developers and licensors of Sonovox "*Talking and Singing Sound,*" exploiting commercial and artistic uses of Gilbert Wright's basic patented invention, in radio and motion pictures. Headquarters in Hollywood.

JAMES L. FREE PRODUCTIONS

James L. Free, *Producer.* Norman Wright, *Director.* Headquarters in Hollywood. Fred Mitchell, New York Representative. Now producing series of one-reel quality shorts for major release, plus television: "The Wonderful Ears of Johnnie McGoggin," using Sonovox *Talking and Singing Sound.* Also producing motion picture commercials for experimental television, and "minute movies" for theatre distribution.

NEW YORK: 444 Madison Ave. Plaza 5-4130

CHICAGO: 180 N. Michigan Ave. Franklin 6373

HOLLYWOOD: 6331 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood 2151

Hays Warns of Laxities In Standards of Screen

(*Continued from page* 1)

tion erected by the industry had weathered every storm.

"We have proved," Hays declared, "that even in the most savage war in history there was no theme or situation that could not be dramatically treated within the limits of decency and good taste . . . that art and prudence in motion pictures do not necessarily conflict; that morality in entertainment is quite compatible with its enjoyment and its best service; that there can no longer be any question that morally sound pictures are good entertainment and good box-office."

"No post-war trend of laxity or license will weaken or overcome our determination to keep the screen a free medium by keeping it an honest and respectable one," he added.

Peace to Bring Problems

He warned, however, that peace would bring problems as well as opportunities to the industry. Not the least of these, he said, was the "ever present problem of self-discipline which we expect to be increased by the war's effect upon moral standards."

Hays recited in his report that in the post-war the motion picture audience will have been increased because entertainment during the war had drawn into steady patronage millions who were before only casual goers; the industry will be in position to mobilize and use the new techniques which films have developed in wartime.

Hays said that the industry could view with pride the steady trend towards wider popular approval and enjoyment of films which have greater artistic merit.

"We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that there is again a resurgence against moral restraints and impatience with the inhibitions of conscience, and that this destructive force is being organized.

"Not only from long experience but from the firmness of resolution which has been reinforced through these years, we are prepared to meet the exigencies of this situation. What we began almost a quarter of a century ago has developed into an institution so vital, and has created a program of practices so fruitful, that the present challenge will find us quite conscious of the task. We shall not be satisfied merely to hold the gains of a quarter century's growth," he added.

"The line of progress imposes upon us the imperative necessity to expand and intensify all the association's efforts and its departmental activities. We have already begun to move forward in extending the association's operating machinery and amplifying its personnel. Plans for many new and enlarged activities have been made and are in process of execution."

Against Censorship

"As the world approaches the task of peace and reconstruction, every channel of communication, every means of education, every agency of information, must be freed from the restraints which would prevent them from functioning in the interests of a free and peaceful world. The motion picture industry, therefore, is vitally interested in world-wide recognition of the right to freedom for all mediums of expression, because no one medium of communication can thrive apart from free expression in all."

Hays praised the policy of the State Department which places our Government behind the principle of unhampered transit in all mediums of communication. Such a policy, he declared, is an asset to world understanding and world peace. Discriminatory tariffs, excessive customs duties, contingents, quotas, price fixing, freezings, remittance taxes and a host of other restrictions "are mines laid in the path of the free interchange of motion picture information and entertainment," he said, adding:

"There is a cultural reciprocity inherent in the exchange of film entertainment which must never be endangered by the intrusion of self-serving propaganda. American pictures obviously help interpret American civilization to the peoples of the world. British pictures are reflections of British culture. And the native cultures of other countries, manifested in the films they produce, are valuable contributions to world entertainment and cultural interchange. International understanding, so necessary for world peace, is promoted. But neither films nor any other means of information, education or entertainment can hope to perform their maximum service if they abandon their integrity. The vitality of all our democratic processes depends upon freedom of communication among free men."

Cites War Services of the Industry

Hays, in his annual report, said a total of 24,867 prints of feature pictures and 26,341 of short subjects on 16mm. film had been delivered to representatives of the Armed Services for free showing to servicemen overseas. More than 16,000 pledged theatres during 1944, he reported, opened their screens to many special releases directed to recruiting for special services as well as National War Fund and Red Cross appeals. During the year there were 15,110 "Bond Premieres" in theatres. For these premieres the distributors furnished the films and the exhibitors waived cash receipts in favor of free admissions for bond purchasers.

Hays also paid tribute to the talent participation in the war effort, pointing out that through the Hollywood Victory Committee 3,671 artists made 41,463 personal appearances in 6,070 different events. Screen personnel traveled more than 4,000,000 miles, spent 1,430 weeks on the "foxhole circuit" overseas, and made more than 18,000 personal appearances in hospitals and camps in the U. S.

Newsreel cameramen, Hays said, continued to perform a heroic job on every war front.

Films and Education

Hays said that anticipated increased post-war interest in the use of films by educational institutions is beginning to be realized.

"There is an increasing number of requests for service from schools and school systems, as well as from institutions which are looking to us for the first time for film materials to be used in their instructional programs.

"Much of this film service is rendered through Teaching Film Custodians, Inc., which is now distributing to several thousand schools and school systems 16mm. prints of the theatrical short subjects.

"Another type of expansion during the past year was the extension of this distribution program into Canada, from which repeated requests have come to permit educational film libraries in Canada to share in these film resources."

Hays declared that an "interesting phenomenon" of motion picture attendance is the indication that films have become America's Summer-time amusement, at least during the war period.

Trade Press Service

Hays declared that the war had highlighted for the industry the service performed by the trade press.

"No other industry is better served. Our trade publications provide our widespread industry personnel with better information, faster, than the trade mediums of any other comparable business enterprise. This was important and essential to the functioning of the motion picture industry in time of peace; and it has been essential in time of war.

"For the historian who undertakes to review the contribution made by the American motion picture industry to the successful prosecution of this war, the volumes of our trade press will be an archive worthy of his study. In them he will find the progressive stages through which the industry advanced in the augmented discharge of its war responsibility. He will find also an explanation of how the momentum was developed to carry over the top the various Bond campaigns, United Nations drives, subscriptions for the Red Cross, the March of Dimes, National War Fund drives, and the many other functions of our War Activities Committee.

"The twelve papers and magazines comprising the Trade Press Division of the War Activities Committee, since May 1942 have contributed 833½ pages of advertising to the industry's war effort, which measured in dollars represent $272,934. Even more important, however, is the fact that 13,554 columns of news and editorial comment was specifically directed toward war service projects of the industry.

"Our trade press succeeded not only in placing a premium on cooperation in the war effort but through explaining to the rank and file of our personnel the necessity for the contractions and restrictions on our normal functioning, helped materially to keep the stream of entertainment unimpaired."

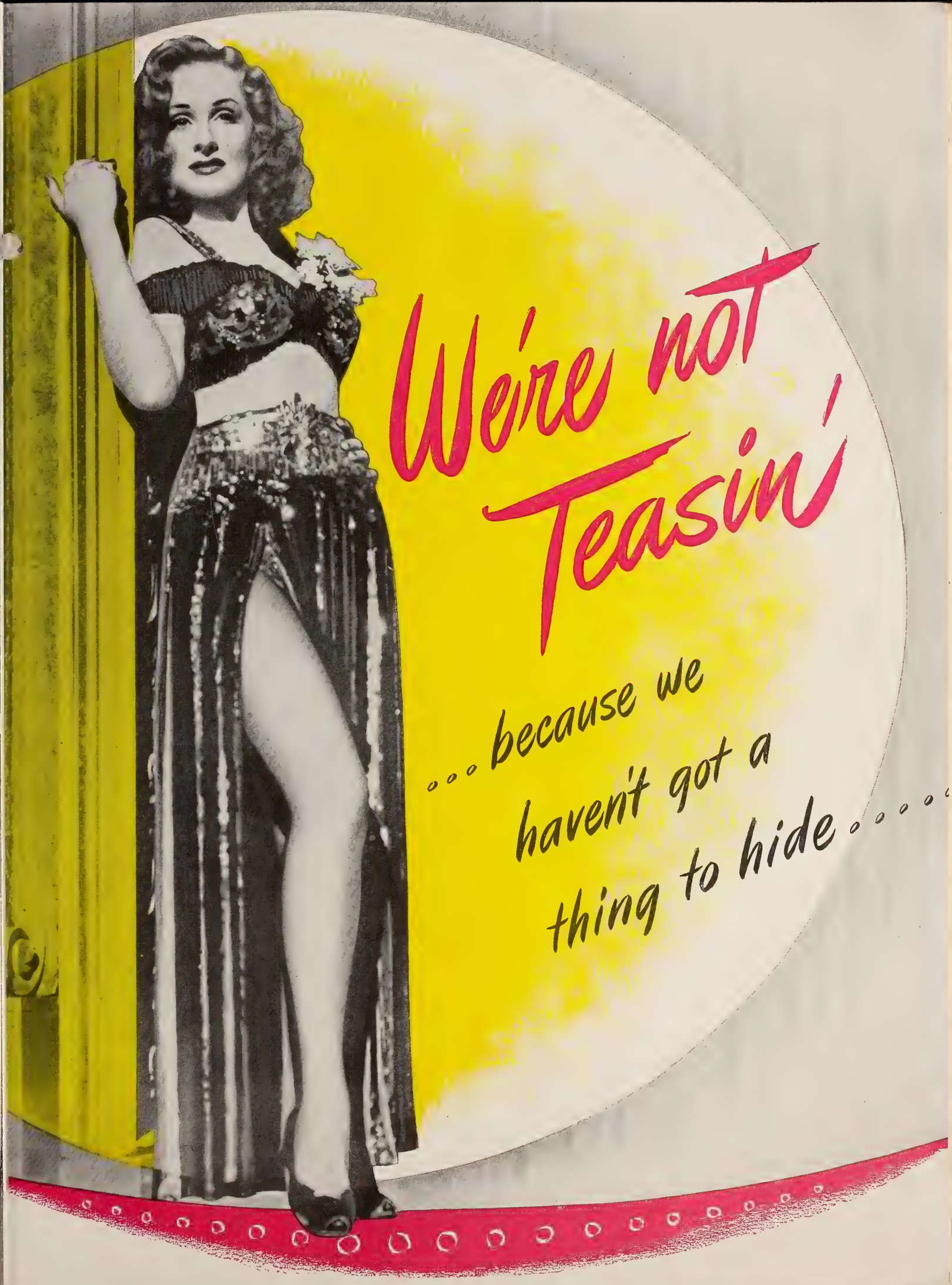
Hays Is Reelected MPPDA President

(*Continued from page* 1)

berg, Borthwick, Jack Cohn, Cecil B. DeMille, Earl W. Hammons, E. B. Hatrick, Hays, Joseph H. Hazen, a new member; Edward C. Raftery, N. Peter Rathvon, Hal E. Roach, Nicholas M. Schenck, Spyros Skouras and Harry M. Warner.

Hunt Stromberg Productions was elected a Class A member, with Hunt Stromberg designated as representative. The annual report was approved, as was the treasurer's report. Hays presided.

Charles Francis Coe, vice-president and general counsel, was not redesignated in that office, while Walter Wanger was not renamed to the board.


We're not Teasin'
... because we haven't got a thing to hide ....

It's all here... everything that makes a boxoffice click!

Story, Stars and Songs . . . add 'em up . . . romance with a twist and a twinkle . . . that winsome onesome, Jane Powell . . . the delightful marquee twosome, Ralph Bellamy and Connie Moore . . . and the renowned radio maestro, Morton Gould with his orchestra, in original melodies . . . the sum? . . . **SOME SHOW, BROTHER!**

CHARLES R. ROGERS *presents*

"DELIGHTFULLY DANGEROUS"

with

JANE POWELL
RALPH BELLAMY
CONSTANCE MOORE
MORTON GOULD AND HIS ORCHESTRA

and Arthur TREACHER • Louise BEAVERS • Ruth TOBEY

Screen Play by WALTER De LEON and ARTHUR PHILLIPS • Based on a story by IRVING PHILLIPS, EDWARD VERDIER and FRANK TASHLIN • Associate Producer: JOSEPH S. TUSHINSKY
Original Music and Arrangements by MORTON GOULD
Musical numbers staged by ERNST MATRAY

Produced by CHARLES R. ROGERS • Directed by ARTHUR LUBIN

Hot on their way to the Hit Parade!

★ "THROUGH YOUR EYES —TO YOUR HEART"
★ "I'M ONLY TEASIN'"
★ "ONCE UPON A SONG"
★ "IN A SHOWER OF STARS"

Released—with delight thru U.A.!

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

'Love', 'Co-Pilot' Top B'way First Runs; 8 New Films Opening

(Continued from page 1)

with $32,000 registered for the first three days and a heavy $65,000 expected for the week.

Of the holdovers, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" and a stage bill presenting Victor Borge and Joan Edwards, at the Roxy, and "The Picture of Dorian Gray," with a big "in person" show with Lena Horn and Xavier Cugat and his orchestra at the Capitol are drawing excellent receipts for fourth weeks. A heavy $80,000 is expected for "Tree' and a strong $62,000 is anticipated by the Capitol for "Dorian Gray." Both will continue with another week expected for "Dorian Gray" before "I'll Be Seeing You" takes over; at least two more weeks are indicated for "Tree" before "A Royal Scandal" follows.

'Thunderhead' Sturdy

A sturdy $17,500 is expected for the second week of "Thunderhead, Son of Flicka," at the Victoria; "The Princess and the Pirate" is expected to bring a profitable $21,000 for a seventh week at the Astor, while "The Three Caballeros" is headed for a modest $10,000 for an eighth week at the Globe. All three will continue.

The Paramount, Hollywood, Criterion, Rivoli, Gotham, Palace, Republic and Rialto will bring in new films. A quiet $48,000 is expected for the fourth and final week of "Bring on the Girls," at the Paramount, and "Practically Yours" and a stage bill with Benny Goodman and his orchestra and the Condos Bros. will open there tomorrow. A mild $11,000 is expected for the eighth and final week and an extra day for "Roughly Speaking," at the Hollywood, with "The Corn Is Green" opening there Thursday.

The final four days of a third week of "Keep Your Powder Dry" is expected to bring the Criterion about $15,500; "Between Two Women" will open there tomorrow. "The Song of Bernadette" will wind up the final four days of a third week on a return engagement at popular prices at the Rivoli with $6,000; "The Affairs of Susan" will open tomorrow.

'Emmanuel' Farewell

The final five days of a 12th week of "Mr. Emmanuel" at the Gotham is expected to yield about $4,100; "Colonel Blimp" will open there Thursday night with a special benefit performance on behalf of the Society of Illustrators' servicemen's rehabilitation fund. "Murder, My Sweet" will bring a good $18,000 for its third and final week at the Palace; "The Belle of the Yukon" will follow on Thursday. The Republic will conclude a third and final week of "Utah" with a slow $2,000; "Earl Carroll Vanities" will open there Saturday. The Rialto will bring "The Mummy's Curse" in Friday with $6,000 expected for the week of "Rough, Tough and Ready."

REEVES
SOUND STUDIOS, INC.
1600 BROADWAY, N. Y. 19 Circle 6-6686
Complete Film and
Disc Recording Facilities

Pre-Trial Conference Ends Without an Agreement

(Continued from page 1)

signed to seek agreements on procedure which would aid in shortening the trial now scheduled for next Oct. 8, the two opposing sides appeared not to be in agreement on anything material when they appeared in open court before Judge Goddard yesterday, and there were no indications that the situation had changed following a private conference in chambers subsequently.

A second pre-trial conference was set for April 10 but Judge Goddard, who will be presiding in motions part of the Federal court here throughout next month, will be unable to participate. The conference will be held in the local office of the Department of Justice and a date for a hearing before Judge Goddard some time in May is scheduled to be agreed upon at that time.

Meanwhile, Judge Goddard has not ruled on either the Government's application for an injunction to restrain distributors from granting clearance to theatres charging substantially the same admission prices, nor on the Government's move to have arbitration Appeal Board decisions on clearance cases admitted as evidence.

Court Raises Question

The court asked attorneys for both sides whether there was a possibility of an agreement either on the whole case or on the clearance issue. Wright subsequently told MOTION PICTURE DAILY that "We can't get together" on either theatre divorcement or clearance.

John Caskey of Dwight, Harris, Koegel and Caskey, counsel for 20th Century-Fox, told the court that defendants had attempted to work out a clearance solution with the Government but had been rebuffed.

Wright said the "backbone" of the Government's case will be a test of the legality of theatre ownership by producers-distributors and that he hoped to get most of his evidence in documentary form in order to shorten the trial. Privately, Wright said the theatre divorcement phase of the trial should take the Government about one month. He described trade practices as the other big issue involved in the trial and told the court that if it admitted Appeal Board decisions as evidence the Government could afford to rest on the merits, but that otherwises individual witnesses would have to be heard.

Interminable Trial

Wright conceded that the trial would be "interminable" if it was necessary for the Government to present individual evidence of each local monopoly alleged. Asserting that the trial will be that of the Government's original complaint, filed Nov. 20, 1940, Wright outlined his case broadly in response to defendants' requests for an indication of what they will be required to reply to. Defendants also were served with new interrogatories by the Government, designed to bring the case up to date.

Edward C. Raftery, counsel for United Artists and Universal, interposed the objection that occurrences since 1940 were not admissible. In response to requests of other defense attorneys for more specific information of what the Government would endeavor to prove at the trial, Wright said he would supply names of witnesses and facts on which he would rely eventually, but at the present time he could supply neither.

Company counsel indicated they would have additional interrogatories to serve on the Government.

"I hope," the court interposed again, "you will be able to eliminate most of the testimony by stipulation and reduce the time of the trial."

GAF Reports Year's $4,813,276 Profit

Net profit of the General Aniline & Film Corp. for 1944 was $4,813,276, equal to $6.57 a share on the Class A common shares, comparing with $4,062,527, or $5.54 a share in 1943, according to the annual report by George W. Burpee, president.

Net sales were $73,311,178, a new high record, comparing with $58,807,790 in 1943 and $43,240,715 in 1942, the first year under American management. The company is controlled by the Alien Property Custodian through his vesting of capital stock representing 98 per cent of the voting power.

Exports were about five per cent of sales. More than half the sales increase was accounted for by production of special war materials.

NAB Studies Probe of New Air Standards

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The code committee of the National Association of Broadcasters is studying what, if any, suggestion revisions may be necessary in the industry's standards of practice. Conclusions of the committee will be sumbitted to the NAB board at its next meeting.

General Precision Net: $1,138,147

(Continued from page 1)

be put on a current basis, the corporation charged against its 1944 earnings two years and 10 months of tax accrual amounting to approximately $340,000, against $122,000 which would have been charged otherwise. Hines pointed out to the stockholders that this was a non-recurring item.

Included in last year's income are dividends received from the company's investment in common stock of 20th Century-Fox amounting to $327,950 against $371,200 in 1943, General Precision having sold 35,000 shares of 20th-Fox at a net average price of approximately $25 per share, applying the proceeds to the acquisition of two new subsidiaries: Ampro Corp. and Askania Regulator Co.

Hines reported that the volume of the company's manufacturing activities increased during the year, net sales of all subsidiaries being $24,096,904, compared with $20,964,525 in 1943.

New Pete Smith Pact

HOLLYWOOD, March 26.—Pete Smith, producer-commentator of M-G-M short subjects, has signed a new contract with the studio.

Walsh and Casey to Tackle Strike Here

(Continued from page 1)

international president, and Pat Casey, producers' labor contact, en route to New York for conferences Tuesday or Wednesday with William Hutcheson, international president of the Carpenters and Joiners Union and with other labor executives, Sorrell told an all-union mass meeting here last night, "The strike is 98 per cent won. Walsh is trying for a negotiated peace, but we will hold out for unconditional surrender," he added.

Today the producers reaffirmed their earlier assertions that production is proceeding steadily, asserting work is being done on 25 features.

IATSE international vice-president Roy Brewer, carrying on here for Walsh, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY he expects no material change in the situation until after the meetings in New York.

Film Ads Cancelled By Newspaper Strike

DES MOINES, March 26.—Theatre operators here have been frantically attempting to buy advertising time on local radio stations following a strike of printers on the *Register* and *Tribune*, which has forced all theatre advertising out of those two papers.

Since the walk-out on Saturday, a jurisdictional dispute between two mailing room unions, the papers have been published in abbreviated form through the use of photo-engraving. Last night the company told anxious theatre agents it would arrange a brief daily column of theatre listings in each paper for the duration of the strike.

Lehman Favors New Screen Recognition

HOLLYWOOD, Calif., March 26.—Special recognition of the screen which was said to contribute most to international understanding has been proposed for addition to the annual awards of the Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The suggestion was made by former Gov. Herbert H. Lehman, now director general of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and had been referred to the Academy activities committee.

A committee to determine the award winner would include representatives of Allied nations.

'U' Contract to Murfin

HOLLYWOOD, March 26.—Jane Murfin has signed a term contract with Universal as a writer-producer.

GLOBE TICKET
COMPANY
154 W. 14th ST. N. Y. C.
Phone WAtkins 9-1486
PROMPT SERVICE
AS USUAL

Production Is In Slightly Better State

HOLLYWOOD, March 26. — With "started" a qualified term meaning anything from "pre-recording" to "shooting location backgrounds," under strike-imposed conditions, production rose slightly from last week's level as four features were started and three finished, the shooting index standing at 32. The production scene follows:

Columbia

Started: "The Bandit of Sherwood Forest," with Cornel Wilde, Anita Louise, Edgar Buchanan, George Macready.

Shooting: "Over 21," "Kiss and Tell" (Siegel).

M-G-M

Started: "For Better, for Worse," with Robert Walker, June Allyson, Audrey Totter, and Hume Cronyn.

Shooting: "They Were Expendable," "Dangerous Partners," "Early to Wed," "Yolanda and the Thief," "The Harvey Girls."

Monogram

Finished: "Here Comes Trouble."

Started: "Springtime in Texas," with Jimmy Wakely, Lee "Lasses" White, Dennis Moore, Marie Harmon.

Paramount

Started: "People Are Funny" (Pine-Thomas) with Jack Haley, Rudy Vallee, Frances Langford, Bob Graham, Helen Walker.

Shooting: "Our Hearts Were Growing Up," "The Well Groomed Bride," "You Came Along" (Hal Wallis).

RKO Radio

Finished: "George White's Scandals of 1945."

Shooting: "The Amorous Ghost," "The Bells of St. Mary's."

Republic

Shooting: "Man from Oklahoma," "Tiger Woman," "Colorado Pioneers."

20th Century-Fox

Finished: "State Fair."

Shooting: "Within These Walls," "Dragonwyck," "Junior Miss," "The Dolly Sisters."

United Artists

Shooting: "Captain Kidd" (Bogeaus); "Young Widow" (Stromberg); "Duel in the Sun" (Vanguard).

Universal

Shooting: "Serenade for Murder," "Lady on a Train," "A Night in Paradise."

Warners

Shooting: "The Time, the Place and the Girl," "Stolen Life," "Shadow of a Woman."

Robinson to Condon

Frances Robinson, actress of screen and radio, has joined the public relations staff of Richard Condon, Inc., here. Miss Robinson was under contract for two-and-a-half years to Universal and also to Columbia. Miss Robinson will specialize on magazine and radio promotional work for the Condon office.

Video Seen as 5-10 Billion Industry

INDIANAPOLIS, March 26. — Television as a five or even a 10-billion dollar industry employing thousands, and one which can completely revolutionize our way of life, was envisaged by Dr. C. B. Jolliffe, vice-president in charge of RCA Laboratories in an address here recently before a joint meeting of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Institute of Radio Engineers.

"Sound broadcasting revolutionized our ideas of entertainment and altered our way of living," Dr. Jolliffe declared. "Television can provide a second revolution of entertainment and affect our mode of living to an even greater degree," he said.

Outlines Goals

"Television engineers should not be satisfied that their job is done until they have made it possible to project in the home, pictures of adequate size in color and also for anyone to attend, by television, all major happenings wherever they occur in the U. S. or in any other part of the world," Dr. Jolliffe pointed out. These objectives may be accomplished in a few years, or many years may be required, he said.

Alberti Agency Will Handle Ameche Show

The Jules Alberti Agency has been granted representation and sales rights for 'packaged' radio shows produced by Ameche Enterprises, Inc., it is announced by Jules Alberti, president. The Alberti Agency, which holds exclusive management on James Ameche as an individual, will now have the services and availability of the entire Ameche organization, heared by Ameche and Frederick Bethel.

The initial acquisition will include five shows and it is planned that some of the properties will be used as vehicles for Ameche, Elsa Maxwell, Constance Bennett, Gregory Ratoff, Fay Wray, John Baker and Richard Arlen.

Paris Film Workers Got 30% Increase

Settlement of the one week strike of personnel in Paris theatres resulted in a wage increase of 30 per cent for employees, "on account," with the understanding that an additional 10 per cent will be granted in the near future.

Press reports from Paris indicate the strike was called because film personnel found it impossible to live, under black market conditions, on the wages they had been receiving. Other French industries are expected to follow the film industry in demands for higher wages.

Comerford Books Plays

Comerford Theatres' Capitol in Binghamton, Masonic Temple in Scranton and the Capitol, Wilkes-Barre, will inaugurate a 'legitimate' policy by bringing "Kiss and Tell," "Life with Father" and "Student Prince" first for one night engagements in each town. The shows, booked by Abe Feinberg, will then play three nights, beginning April 3. Thereafter vaudeville will be resumed.

Secret War Work an Aid to Television

Stockholders of Columbia Broadcasting System are being informed that secret electronic work and research for the Government as a war job has made CBS engineers certain, in their opinion, "that postwar television, simply by following in the footsteps of military electronics, could emerge at a much higher level than its prewar 'freeze,'" with pictures "twice as clear, twice as sharp and perhaps twice as large."

Paul W. Kesten, executive vice-president, points out three accomplishments of CBS in 1944, two of them entirely outside the field of audio broadcasting, one being the design and construction by CBS's television laboratories of special electronic equipment for the Navy. Another was "the challenge constructively offered to the radio industry in the warning that better television on higher wave lengths and in full color, was inevitable and, therefore, should not be delayed after the war lest millions of consumers invest hundreds of millions of dollars in old-style sets which would not receive the coming better pictures." A third was the audio broadcasting reports from battle fronts on 'D-Day' and ensuing days.

Nation's Theatres Aid Clothing Collection

'United National Clothing Collection' posters is being distributed to theatres this week by National Screen Service, on behalf of a clothing collection, April 1-30. This is a united effort on the part of United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and all of the voluntary war relief agencies of the U. S., under the chairmanship of Henry J. Kaiser.

War Activities Committee, Office of War Information, and National Screen are cooperating in furnishing the posters to theatres. Goal of the clothing drive is 150,000,000 pounds, for free distribution to needy and destitute men, women and children in war-devastated countries.

Radio Stage Hands Get Wage Increases

New contracts covering some 40 stage hands employed by National Broadcasting, Columbia, Blue Network, Mutual and WMCA have been signed by the companies with IATSE Theatrical Protective Union, No. 1, and have been submitted to the War Labor Board for approval.

Contracts for the stage hands used in studios and New York radio theatres, provide for a five-day week instead of the present six-day week and 10 per cent wage increases permitted under a balance due under the 'Little Steel' formula. Provisions are retroactive to March 17, 1944.

Republic Drive for 'Vanities' Launched

Newspaper advertising and radio spot announcements highlight the campaign which is backing the Broadway opening of Republic's 'big-budget' musical, "Earl Carroll Vanities," at the Republic Theatre in New York, where the picture will open on Saturday. The campaign covers every New York newspaper. Radio spot announcements will begin today.

Hollywood

By THALIA BELL

Hollywood, March 26

DIRECTOR Curtis Bernhart has had his Warner contract extended . . . Casting of Natssha Gurdie and Sonny Howe for juvenile roles completes the selection of players to support Claudette Colbert, Orson Welles and George Brent in International's "Tomorrow Is Forever."

•

Columbia has exercised its option on Janet Blair. . . . Rex Lease has been added to the cast of Monogram's "Springtime in Texas." . . . Universal's horror character, first introduced in "The Spider Woman," will be seen again in "The Spider Woman Strikes Again," with Gale Sondergaard starred.

•

Charles Russell has been selected for the romantic lead in 20th Century-Fox' "The Embezzler" . . . Rosemary De Camp is set for the role of the Queen of Spain in "The Adventures of Don Juan," Warner production in which Errol Flynn is starred . . . Dorcas Cochran has been signed by Leon Fromkess to write the screenplay of "The Wife of Monte Cristo."

•

Audrey Trotter and Hume Cronyn have been assigned top featured roles in M-G-M's "For Better, for Worse" . . . Andy Russell, singer, has been put under contract by B. G. De Sylva and will make his screen debut in "The Stork Club." . . . The feminine lead in M-G-M's "They Were Expendable" has been given to Donna Reed.

•

Hal Wallis is planning a film based on the life of the Russian composer, Tschaikovsky, as one of his scheduled productions for Paramount release. . . . Thomas Mitchell has been selected for a top supporting role in M-G-M's "This Strange Adventure," which stars Clark Gable and Greer Garson.

Ohio Situations to Adopt War Time

COLUMBUS, O., March 26. — Many Ohio situations, and those just across the line in adjoining states, will move clocks ahead one hour to Eastern War Time, April 1, with others making the change later in the month.

However, communities which retain the present Eastern Standard Time will observe the midnight curfew one hour later than adjacent towns where the change has been made. This, it is believed, will tend to attract considerable patronage to the situations where the extra hour prevails.

CIAA Becomes OIAA, Harrison Is Head

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Wallace K. Harrison has been appointed director of the Office of Inter-American Affairs which has been changed to this new designation from the former name Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, by executive order of President Roosevelt.

Harrison was formerly deputy coordinator and had been serving as acting coordinator since Nelson A. Rockefeller, former coordinator, was made an Assistant Secretary of State.

THE FIVE YEAR OLD in SEVEN LEAGUE BOOTS!
PRC
JOIN HIS
5th
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
IT'S THE BIRTHDAY
PARTY of the YEAR!

'CRIME' does PAY!

at the BOX OFFICE when it is exposed as realistically...and dramatically...as in this sensational EXPLOITATION SPECIAL!

★

"BEST CONTEMPORARY FILM IN ITS CATEGORY" • *M. P. HERALD*

"SUSPENSEFUL, EXCITING AND FAST MOVING...WILL BE A TOP BILL STANDOUT" • *BOX OFFICE*

"ROUSING MELODRAMA...UNFOLDING AT A FAST AND EXCITING PACE...EXCELLENT PRODUCTION INVESTITURES" • *DAILY VARIETY*

"GOOD NAME CAST AND HIGH-POWERED EXPLOITATION" • *HOLLYWOOD REPORTER*

"LEON FROMKESS HAS LET FIRE WITH BOTH BARRELS...THE RESULT IS FAST, FORCEFUL MELODRAMA" • *M. P. DAILY*

"RED HOT FOR EXPLOITATION" • *BOX OFFICE DIGEST*

"BLINDING IN ITS REVELATIONS OF MUNICIPAL GRAFT" • *GRACE KINGSLEY, L. A. TIMES.*

"THE GREATEST EXPOSURE OF CRIME RACKETS TO HIT THE SCREEN" • *EXHIBITOR*

PRC *Presents*

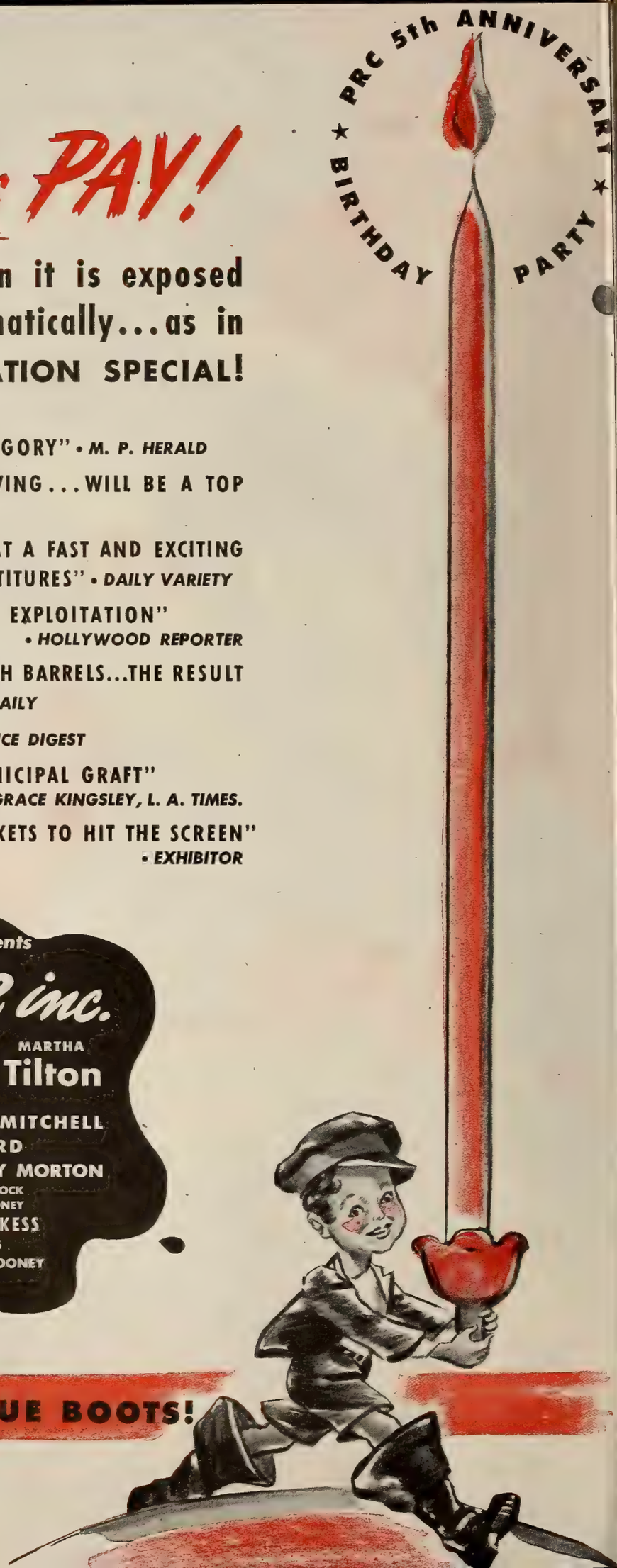
Crime inc.

LEO Carrillo · TOM Neal · MARTHA Tilton

with

LIONEL ATWILL • GRANT MITCHELL
SHELDON LEONARD
HARRY SHANNON • DANNY MORTON

Screen Play by . . . RAY SCHROCK
From the Book by MARTIN MOONEY
Produced by LEON FROMKESS
Directed by LEW LANDERS
Associate Producer MARTIN MOONEY



The 5 YEAR OLD IN 7 LEAGUE BOOTS!

There's *NO ILLUSION* about These Raves!

BOX OFFICE

PRC's outstanding best to date, a production upon which any major company would be proud to put its trademark . . . The cast, impressive enough to lend magnetism to the marquee, performs excellently under the sensitive direction of Edgar G. Ulmer, and in every other detail the offering is definitely big league.

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

This Leon Fromkess production is PRC's undisputed entrant in major league competition . . . a big and handsome production . . . reflecting its unlimited budget—even better than that—reflecting infinite pains and care to make a good picture. Certainly no theatre can close its booking calendar to it. It is an excellent subject for any and all runs, including preferred time.

PRC PRESENTS

James LYDON ★ *Sally* EILERS ★ *Warren* WILLIAM

in

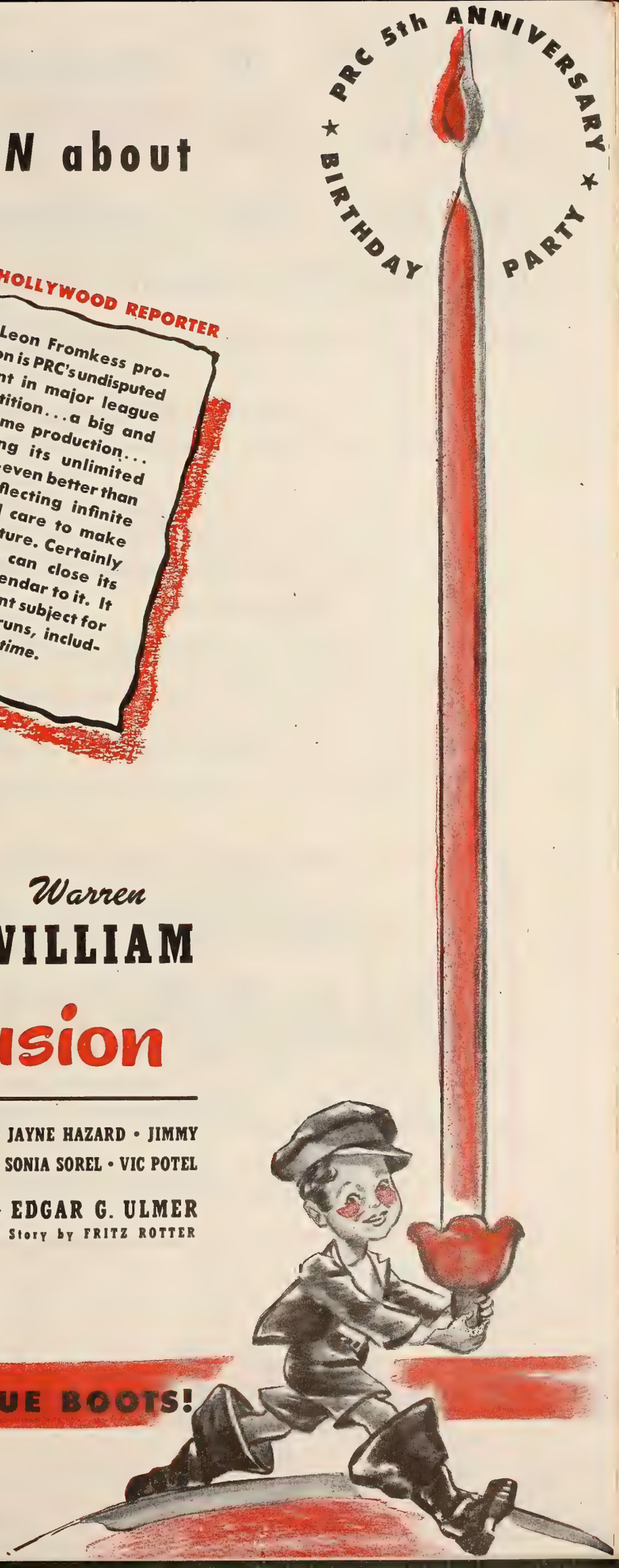
Strange Illusion

with

REGIS TOOMEY • CHARLES ARNT • GEORGE H. REED • JAYNE HAZARD • JIMMY CLARK • MARY McLEOD • PIERRE WATKIN • JOHN HAMILTON • SONIA SOREL • VIC POTEL

Produced by LEON FROMKESS • Directed by EDGAR G. ULMER

Screen Play by ADELE COMANDINI • Based on an Original Story by FRITZ ROTTER



The 5 YEAR OLD IN 7 LEAGUE BOOTS!

Blizzards or Brownouts... it's the *HOLDOVER HIT!*

"BLUEBEARD" MADE A BOX-OFFICE KILLING in PHILADELPHIA! Biggest business in many months...despite WORST blizzard in years...

"Bluebeard,'" excellent, distinctive class film, the kind of picture any company would be glad to release."

★ *Hollywood Reporter*

"More suspense per minute than has been created by all the zombies, mummies and ghosties let loose in the theatres." ★ *Motion Picture Herald*

"Leon Fromkess continues to boost PRC's stock sky high with 'Bluebeard.'" ★ *Daily Variety*

"One of the most ambitious offerings to bear the PRC label...packs plenty of excitement and suspense."

★ *Film Daily*

PRC PICTURES presents

JOHN CARRADINE

in

"BLUEBEARD"

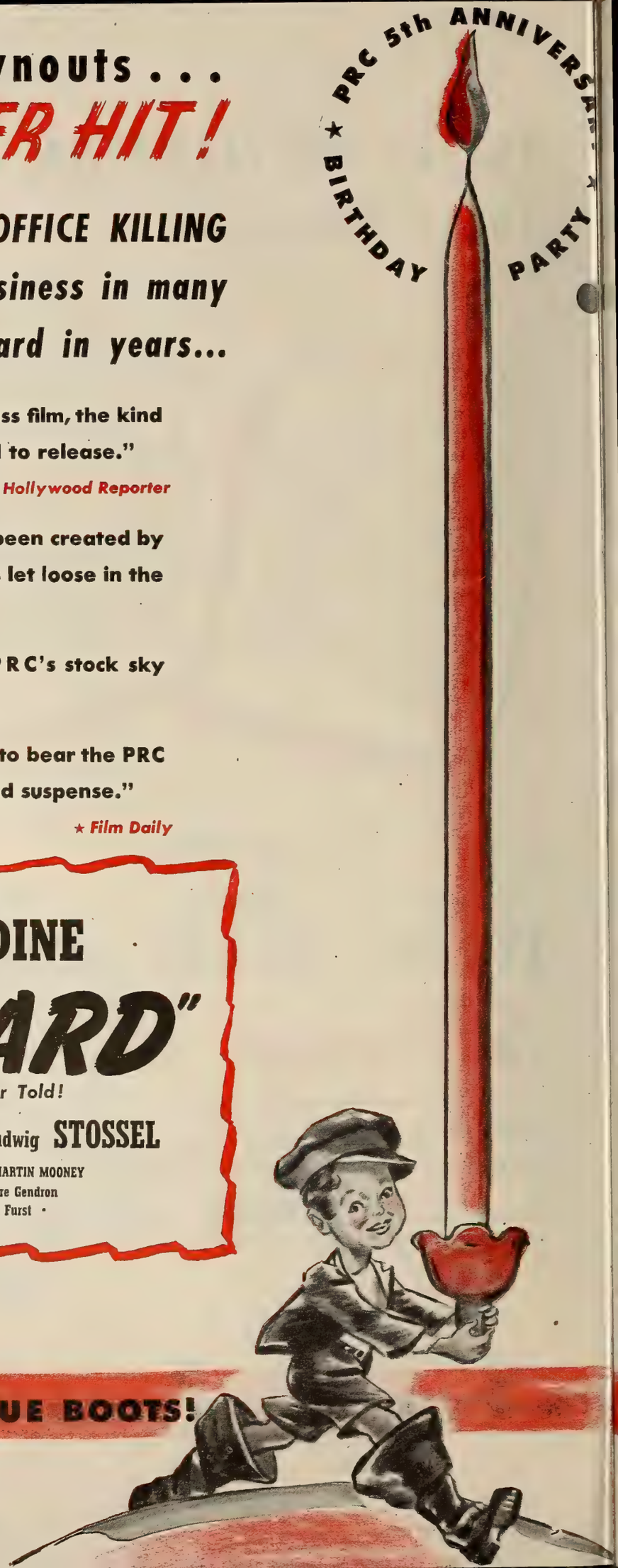
The Most Sinister Love Story Ever Told!

with Jean PARKER • Nils ASTHER • Ludwig STOSSEL

Produced by LEON FROMKESS • Assoc. Prod. MARTIN MOONEY

Directed by EDGAR G. ULMER • Screenplay by Pierre Gendron

Original Story by Arnold Phillips & Werner H. Furst •



The 5 YEAR OLD IN 7 LEAGUE BOOTS!

The Nation's Gone Wild . . .
about "THE TOWN WENT WILD"

"SPLENDID DIRECTION" Film Daily

"SEASON'S SLICKEST SLEEPER" Hollywood Reporter

"VERY GOOD!" Harrison's Reports

"TOP LAUGH-GETTER!" L. A. Times

"HILARIOUS INCIDENTS" M. P. Herald

"CERTAINLY A BELL RINGER" Hollywood M. P. Review

"A RIOTOUS SLEEPER!" Hollywood Reporter

"ANOTHER STEP UP THE QUALITY LADDER" Box Office

"BEST COMEDY IN MANY YEARS" Daily Variety

"A LIVELY SLEEPER" Liberty

PRC...presents

THE TOWN WENT WILD

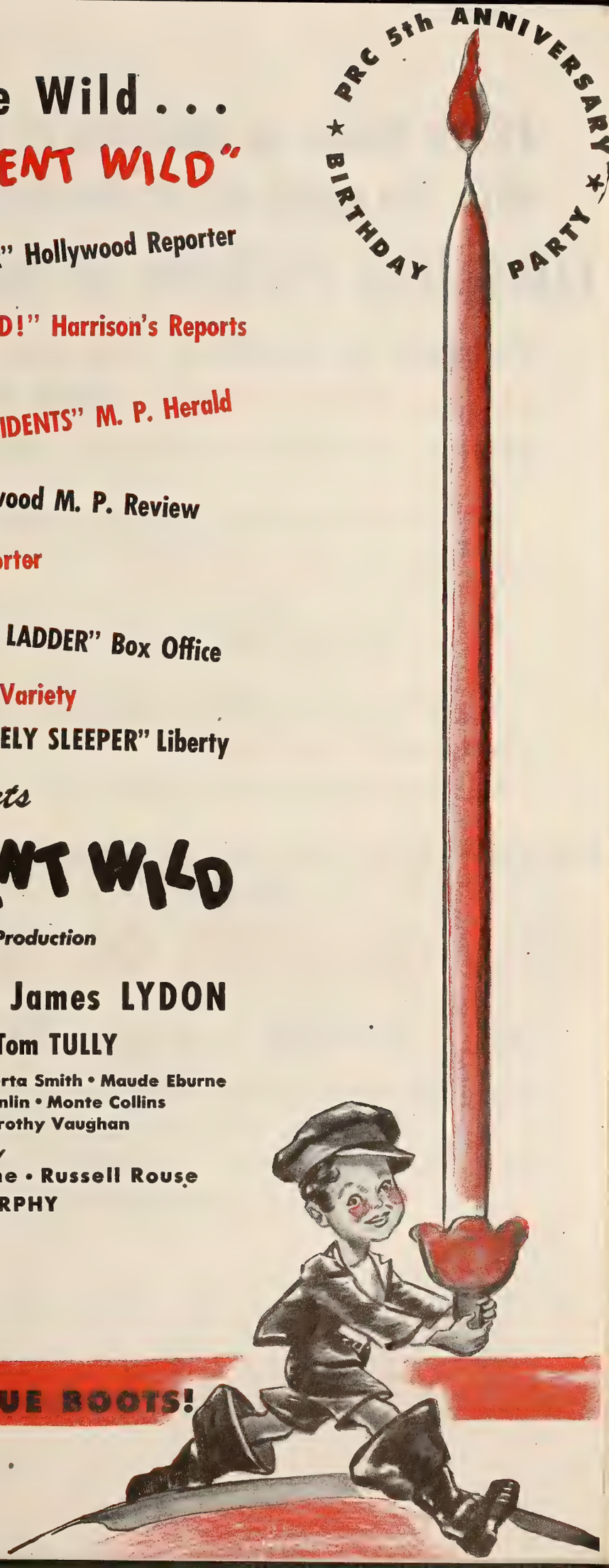
A ROTH-GREENE-ROUSE *Production*
with

Freddie BARTHOLOMEW • James LYDON

Edward Everett HORTON • Tom TULLY

Jill Browning • Minna Gombell • Ruth Lee • Roberta Smith • Maude Eburne
Charles Halton • Ferris Taylor • Jimmy Conlin • Monte Collins
Charles Middleton • Emmett Lynn • Dorothy Vaughan

Written and Produced by
Bernard R. Roth • Clarence Greene • Russell Rouse
Directed by **RALPH MURPHY**



The 5 YEAR OLD IN 7 LEAGUE BOOTS!

Every Home in America is living this DRAMA *of* TOMORROW!

TIMELIEST PICTURE of the YEAR

It's headed for the title of *"THE BOX OFFICE SLEEPER OF THE YEAR"*...HELD OVER in

DETROIT • BROOKLYN • LOS ANGELES • PROVIDENCE

★ ★ ★

"If Director William K. Howard had never made another fine picture he could say with justifiable pride, 'I stand or fall by this one.'" ★ *Los Angeles Examiner*

"PRC is entitled to an armistice celebration all its own over 'When the Lights Go On Again.'" ★ *Hollywood Reporter*

"Leon Fromkess does it again...a strong PRC bid to show producers it's possible to make good pictures...as well as good money.'" ★ *Daily Variety*

"Even the majors could be proud of this one." ★ *Box Office*

THREE STARS IN THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS . . . Biggest Circulation in the World

PRC PRESENTS

WHEN THE LIGHTS GO ON AGAIN

starring

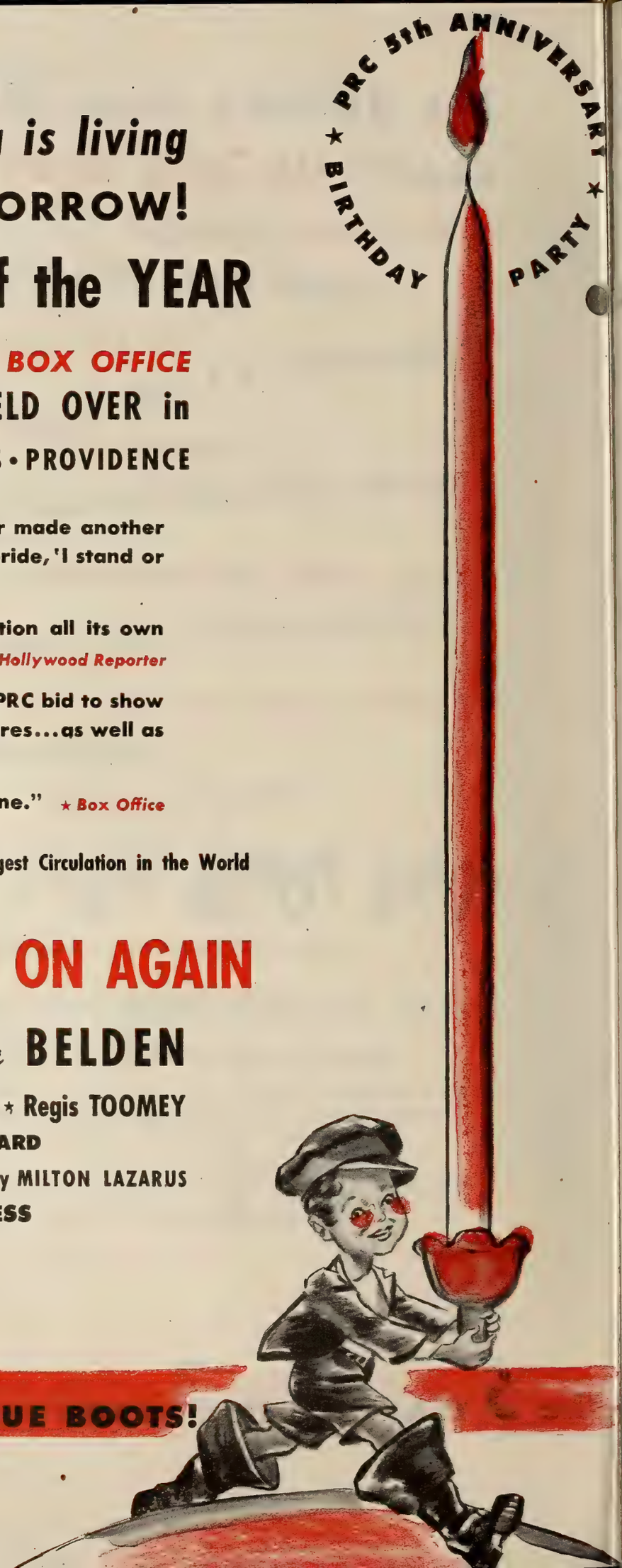
Jimmy **LYDON** ★ *Barbara* **BELDEN**

George CLEVELAND ★ Dorothy PETERSON ★ Regis TOOMEY

Directed by **WILLIAM K. HOWARD**

Original Story by FRANK CRAVEN • Screen Play by MILTON LAZARUS

Produced by **LEON FROMKESS**



The 5 YEAR OLD IN 7 LEAGUE BOOTS!

Federal Tax Returns Up to $26,298,412

(*Continued from page* 1)

ness) increased to $26,298,412, from $24,354,560 in the preceding month.

The upsurge was in sharp contrast with a year ago, when collections dropped from $16,744,936 in January to $12,094,185 the following month.

Admission-tax collections now are are running at the rate of $360,000,000 a year, slightly better than estimated by the Treasury when the current rates were put into effect. Receipts for the first eight months of the Government's fiscal year aggregated $237,662,562 against $120,630,825 in the corresponding period a year ago, an increase of $117,031,737.

The improved January business evidenced by the February collections was spread throughout the country rather than in Metropolitan centers, it was indicated by the special report for the Third New York (Broadway) District which showed a decline in revenue from $4,766,726 in January to $4,049,158 last month.

The decline applied to all classifications of admissions, receipts from box office admissions dropping from $4,083,825 to $3,450,642; tickets sold by brokers from $51,054 to $32,913; tickets sold by proprietors in excess of established prices from $1,014 to nothing.

To Honor Fanny Brice

Columbia Broadcasting and Benton and Bowles advertising agency will honor Fanny Brice, Danny Thomas and the 'Toasties Time' cast at a reception at the Hotel Ambassador here this afternoon.

Curfew Violators To Be Penalized

(*Continued from page* 1)

make the first step by imposing 'zero' employment ceilings. WPB itself, it was said by a spokesman, will not initiate any such cases.

An official of the Board said that no cases have yet been received, but an agreement has been reached that when a certification is sent in by the WMC it will be turned over to the compliance division for investigation. The investigation would include a hearing at which the Government would be required to provide that current, fuel or other materials needed to promote the war effort were being used improperly through a violation of the manpower ceiling.

While the procedure could be applied to theatres or other places, it was explained that it would operate in this way: Upon violation of the curfew, the WMC would fix a zero manpower ceiling; thereupon, if the the establishment continued to operate, it would be held to have violated its ceiling and to have improperly used power or fuel, whereupon it would be certified to the WPB which, after investigation, could order its supplies cut off.

Yergin With 'Reporter'

HOLLYWOOD, March 26.—Irving Yergin today became editor of *The Hollywood Reporter* under an arrangement which is understood to give him a sharing arrangement. Yergin recently came West as an executive assistant to Charles Einfeld, director of advertising and publicity for Warners. His deal to join William R. Wilkerson, however, had been on and off for a number of months.

Treasury Has New War Drive Poster

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The sketch for a poster, "Movie Goers—Keep on Buying Bonds," shows a typical American soldier, battle-weary, but determined, in an advance through a wrecked German village. As his fellow infantrymen trudge on, he pauses for a moment to wheel around and face from the screen the comfortable audience in his home town theatre. Superimposed on the screen and curtain are the words, "You buy 'em—we'll fight 'til we beat 'em!"

The poster is an official U. S. Treasury poster 40-by-60 inches, and was produced at the direction of Ned Shugrue, director of the motion picture and special events section of the War Finance Division. National Screen Service will distribute the poster to theatres. R. J. O'Donnell, Southwestern chairman for the War Activities Committee, suggested the poster, and Ray Beall prepared the original sketch and layout.

RKO Revives Foreign House Publication

RKO Radio's foreign department publication, *The Foreign Legion,* has been brought back into circulation after a lapse due to the war. It is under the editorial guidance of Mike Hoffay, foreign publicity manager; the publication was resumed during March.

Highlighting the reappearance of *The Foreign Legion,* dormant since June 29, 1940, is an outline of the "Phil Reisman Studio Appreciation Drive," now under way and continuing until June 2. Each article in the publication is printed in Spanish, Portuguese, French and English.

Appoint Lesser N.Y. 7th Loan Chairman

(*Continued from page* 1)

was unanimously endorsed at a meeting of New York area WAC members.

In announcing Lesser's acceptance, Pinanski said: "I am informed that all exhibitors are behind him 100 per cent. Lesser has given the national committee an assurance that the Metropolitan area will go over the top in this biggest of all war drives."

Lesser stated yesterday that organization meetings will get under way here tomorrow when chairmen will be appointed for the various committees.

A member of the executive committee of the New York area War Activities Committee since its inception, Lesser has been chairman of the Broadway-Times Square Theatres in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth War Loans, and has been active in all Red Cross, March of Dimes, National War Fund and other drives.

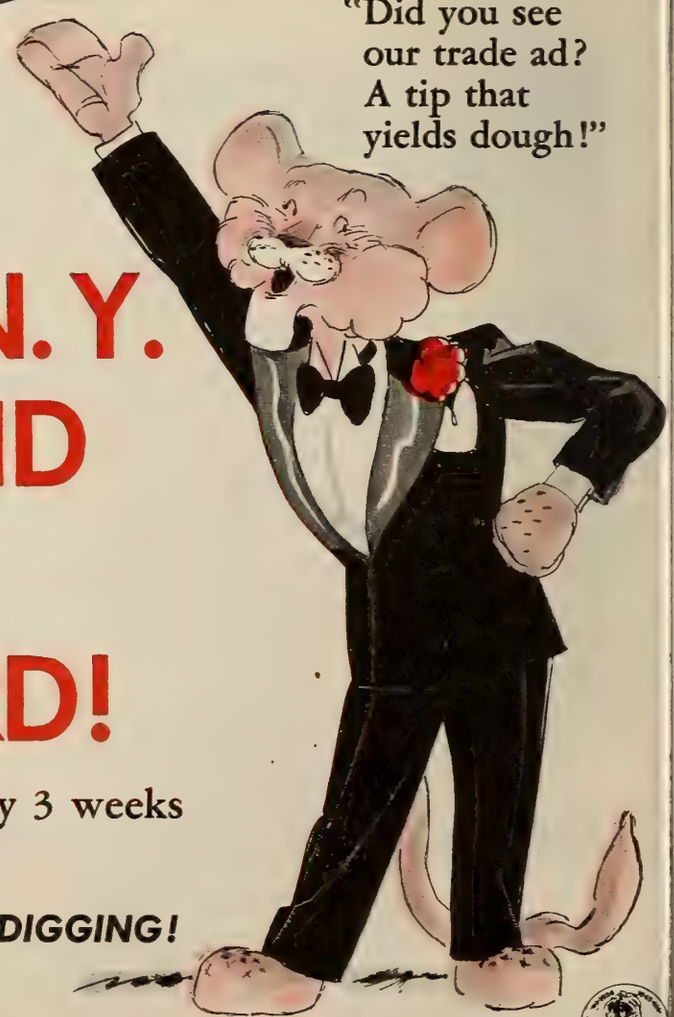
Mahoney Child Actor Licensing Bill Dies

ALBANY, N. Y., March 26.—The Mahoney bill, which would have established a system of licensing, by local educational authorities, of children under 18 performing in various kinds of entertainment, has been killed in the Senate's education committee. This measure would not have affected New York City.

Also killed in the committee was another bill designed to put the director, officers and employes of the State Education Department's motion picture division under civil service.

One of the thrilling production high lights from "Earl Carroll Vanities," spectacular, new Republic super-show, starring Dennis O'Keefe, Constance Moore, and featuring Woody Herman's band of the year.

ADVT.



LOEW'S STATE, N.Y. TOOK A TIP AND BROKE ITS 25-YEAR RECORD!

"Meet Me In St. Louis" is the first picture to play 3 weeks at the State (after its 10-week run at the Astor.)

MORAL: ***WHEN YOU FIND A GOLDMINE, KEEP DIGGING!***

Give To The Red Cross

MGM

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 60 NEW YORK, U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1945 TEN CENTS

See Defeat of Bowles Plan On Thursday

Senate Group to Pass On Admission Control

WASHINGTON, March 27.—The Senate Banking and Currency Committe is expected to take final action Thursday on the extension of the Emergency Price Control Act, and is believed ready to turn down the suggestion of Price Administrator Chester A. Bowles for control of theatre admission prices.

An indication of the committee's position on this and other amendments urged by both Bowles and industry representatives appearing at the recent hearings was given by Chairman Robert F. Wagner, Senator from New York, who said it is "the feeling of

(Continued on page 12)

Technicolor Profit $859,156 in 1944

Technicolor, Inc., had a net profit of $859,156 for the fiscal year ended Dec. 31, 1944, compared with $1,103,704 for 1943, Dr. Herbert T. Kalmus, president and general manager, reported yesterday.

Federal excess profits tax increased from $13,008 in 1943 to $533,450 in 1944, the latter subject to an anticipated postwar refund of $53,345. Total Federal taxes last year amounted to $1,048,288, compared with $812,250 the year before. Total revenue in

(Continued on page 11)

Universal First to Accept 7th Quota

Universal is the first New York firm in all business fields to accept a quota for the Seventh War Loan advance payroll savings campaign, beginning April 9. Based on average earnings, Universal's War Bond quota will be $75,000.

Joseph Ludwig and Willis G. Lipscomb, general auditor and assistant vice-president of the company, were presented with Treasury commendation in behalf of the company.

Propose 60% Slash in Tax

WASHINGTON, March 27.—With end of the war in Germany in sight, Rep. Daniel A. Reed today introduced a joint resolution in Congress providing for a reduction of 60 per cent in the excess profits tax rate, now 95 per cent, after the defeat of Germany, and outright repeal of the levy after the defeat of Japan. The resolution also calls for a horizontal cut of 20 per cent in individual income taxes to take effect at the end of the war with Japan.

Reed explained that relief to American business men from war time taxes is imperative if plans for reconversion and continued widespread employment after the return of peace are to be carried out.

Walsh, Hutcheson Talk Strike Today

Richard F. Walsh, IATSE international president, and William Hutcheson, international president of the Carpenters and Joiners Union, and other national labor executives will start a series of conferences here today looking toward a possible settlement of the three-week-old studio strike resulting from the tangled jurisdictional dispute between the IATSE and the Studio Set Decorators Local No. 1421. Walsh arrived

(Continued on page 12)

PCCITO Seeks War Rating for Theatres

Los Angeles, March 27.—The Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners has passed a resolution urging Congress and War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes to support Congressman Gordon L. McDonough, Cal., in his Congressional proposal to have all film theatres declared essential to the war effort.

Quality Production Increases: Eyssell

"The industry is now producing more quality pictures rather than quantity, and since the public will pay for a good picture, we do not anticipate that long first runs will lessen in the near future. Certainly as far as the Music Hall is concerned, we will not drop a picture which is doing good business," Gus Eyssell, managing director of Radio City Music Hall told MOTION PICTURE DAILY, following his

Gus Eyssell

(Continued on page 10)

"The Affairs of Susan"

[*Paramount-Hal B. Wallis Prod.*]

THEATREMEN who are aware of producer values will want to know fast what gives with Hal B. Wallis and his first for Paramount. This is the answer:

His "The Affairs of Susan" is one for the money. Particularly, from women. It is a comedy veering to burlesque and farce and not always on a completely unified footing, but that is more in the nature of a critic determined to be critical than it will be the fan plunking down his admission for almost two hours of entertainment and relaxation.

If the critic is to have his say, he would observe pace is not consistently maintained, yet he would leaven that by remarking it is one tough assignment to keep matters cooking for laughs throughout 110 minutes. They continue to maintain in Hollywood that important attractions are never easy to turn out and that comedies are the least easy. If this is the case, comedies in the length of "The Affairs of Susan" simply multiply the difficulties. But if the audience and its probable reaction are the criteria, Paramount and Wallis may relax.

This time Joan Fontaine is a comedienne. She is also dressed in the mode of the day and on her it is becoming. Her affairs are three, disallow-

(Continued on page 7)

WMC Desires Film Ban to Back Curfew

Asks Distributors Not To Serve Violators

WASHINGTON, March 27.—War Manpower Commission officials here today disclosed that recommendations have been made to the War Production Board that all possible sanctions be imposed on the Loop Theatre, Toledo, accused of violating the midnight curfew.

Determined to make an example of the case, regional officials of the WMC have requested the distributors not to release their pictures to any exhibitor for showing after midnight.

Under the procedure worked out by WMC and WPB, the latter, following certification of a violation by the former, will take steps to cut off power and other supplies of the violator.

WMC officials said that on the

(Continued on page 11)

Casanave Plans New Distribution Unit

The formation of a new national distributing organization for independent producers is indicated in a plan whereby Charles Casanave is to head a new organization of some 20 independent franchise holders who heretofore have been tied up with Film Classics, it is learned.

Although Casanave refused to comment, it is understood that incorporation papers for the new company are now being drawn and 20 independent exchange owners now associated with Film Classics and controlling some

(Continued on page 12)

Kann Discusses New Selznick Company

Prospects of David O. Selznick establishing a national distribution company of his own, with Ross Federal Service offices and personnel as a foundation, are explored by Red Kann in *Insider's Outlook* on Page 2 of today's *Motion Picture Daily*. Factors, both favorable and unfavorable, involved in such a move are discussed.

Personal Mention

ROY HAINES, Warner Western and Southern sales manager, entrained from Hollywood yesterday for New York, via Salt Lake City and Denver.

•

JOHN C. JACKSON, London Films director, returned to New York yesterday from the Coast. He will leave for England within two weeks accompanied by WILLIAM WILLIAMS, also of London Films, who will arrive in New York today from Detroit.

•

CAPT. DANIEL R. MORGAN and SGT. GALLOWAY, formerly assistant manager and a member of the junior executive staff of the Roxy, New York, have received the Silver Star and a Commendation.

•

SHIRLEY EPSTEIN, daughter of SAM EPSTEIN, Omaha circuit operator, has been married in that city to SAM BERNMAN.

•

EDWARD GABRIEL, Capitol exchange manager, Philadelphia, is at Temple Hospital, that city, for an appendectomy.

•

ROSS MCCAUSLAND, manager of the Telenews Theatre, Denver, and MRS. MCCAUSLAND, are in Dallas.

•

F. H. SMITH, manager of Paramount exchange operations, Salt Lake City, is due back there from Montana and Idaho.

•

NEIL FLETCHER, Palace Theatre treasurer, Dallas, is in California looking into a $70,000 inheritance left by a friend.

•

MAXINE BASLER of Earle W. Sweigert's Paramount exchange staff in Philadelphia, has resigned to join the Red Cross.

•

NINA SCOTT, booker at the Sheffield-Republic Salt Lake City exchange, is recuperating after an operation in that city.

•

AL WILKIE, Paramount home office publicity manager, left Hollywood for New York yesterday on the Superchief.

•

HUGH BRALEY, Paramount division manager, is visiting Salt Lake City and Denver.

•

IRA ADAMS, Nelson, Neb., exhibitor, has been appointed county attorney for Nuckolls County in that state.

•

PAUL ESTERLY, manager of the Strand Theatre, Reading, Pa., is vacationing in Florida.

•

LEON BAMBERGER, RKO Radio sales promotion manager, will leave here Friday for a Florida vacation.

•

DONALD J. BEZAHLER, son of JOEL BEZAHLER of M-G-M, will be barmitzvahed in Brooklyn, April 21.

•

OLIN CLARK will entrain from Hollywood for New York today.

Insider's Outlook

By RED KANN

SPREAD over most of this regular Wednesday area on April 19, last year, and again seven days later was a consolidation of facts, surmises and analyses of David O. Selznick's position in United Artists. Highlights were stock ownership and stock influences which trailed acquisition of Sir Alexander Korda's 25 per cent interest by UA Productions, wholly-owned subsidiary of United Artists Corporation, and Neil F. Agnew who, somewhat earlier, had resigned from Paramount to handle Selznick's sales.

■

In the light of current deploying, a few selected excerpts are worth reprinting because they fit inextricably into the pattern of what may be:

"The big and solitary question is: Will one-quarter keep him [Selznick] content? . . . At best, it is a part-way answer. Partway because the competent Selznick is also a very ambitious Selznick. An accepted analysis of him here [in Hollywood] encompasses these motivations and objectives, but it must be pointed out it is others than David himself who supply the ingredients:

"1—He wants to be top-kick in any setup of which he is a part. This suggests management, or control, or both.

"2—*He seeks a broadly-flung company bearing his family name and has had this on his reputed list of futures for some time.*"

■

With significance all its own, there also was this:

"On the Selznick side, what about Agnew? David wants to have in New York a selling factor on whom he can place complete dependability. Structurally, Selznick is the kind of person who will never 'include himself completely out' of any of his activities. Therefore, he will be having his say in sales, too, but the dominant say will be Agnew's.

"This will relieve the producer for production, *but it also sets up a valuable asset if and when Selznick ever contemplates the need for a national sales manager of his own.*"

The italics did not appear originally. They are emphasized today for their pivotal values.

■

Now, a year later, matters are stirring. They are stirring on behalf of a national selling organization emblazoning the Selznick name in the celluloid firmament—and high in it, too. No one can foretell with unchallenged accuracy how closely intentions will match events or the precise juncture on the calendar when the ambition will bear fruit, if it does.

Today, the raw stock situation is ruling the industry's roost and plans must be tailored to meet the prohibitions of war. This is why the plan under which Selznick would withdraw from UA after delivering his inescapable commitment of five attractions—three down and two to go—in favor of a distribution machine under his own banner is among the unpredictables of the day.

■

However, make no mistakes and do not treat lightly the discussions continuing with Harry Ross. The view is that in Ross Federal reside the potentials of another national distributor. Thirty-one offices are functioning in key cities. They are fortunately endowed with floor space, desks, typewriters, telephones. Vaults appear to present no knotty problem. Parcel post, expressage and film carriers are available to all comers.

■

Manpower reputedly offers no insurmountables, either, for everyone is aware that a freshly-launched enterprise attracts men who believe they see an opportunity in another pasture, hopefully greener than their own. In the thousands of bonded checkers employed by Ross is a manpower reservoir which offers interesting and unknown exploratory possibilities, moreover.

There may be agreement or none over the reasoning this sets forth. What is more to the point is the fact the principals in the case do not believe their handicaps are too severe to lick. They do not even acknowledge them to be severe.

■

That, however, is on the side of personnel and physical requirements. Raw stock, without which it is obviously impossible to produce, is another matter. It is the big matter, looming large and uncertainly over all else.

If this engages your attention and you are after more, Friday means more. That's *Motion Picture Herald* day.

1,000 Members, Goal For Cinema Lodge

A goal of 1,000 members for Cinema Lodge, B'nai B'rith, in the film and allied industries was set by Albert A. Senft, president, at the election and installation of officers at the Hotel Astor here last night.

Senft called for an intensive membership drive to be conducted in all film offices and other branches of the industry in New York to achieve this goal.

Cinema will continue its program of honoring industry leaders for their contributions to human welfare and the traditional ideals of American freedom during the coming year, Senft said. Barney Balaban, Samuel Rinzler and Harry Brandt have already received the Cinema 'Honor Scroll.'

Schwalberg Presides

Alfred W. Schwalberg, Cinema honorary president, presided at last night's installation, following the election which saw Senft reelected for another year. Vice-presidents elected and installed included S. Arthur Glixon, Bernard Goodman, Leo Jaffe, Samuel Lefkowitz, Jack H. Levin, Martin Levine, Milton Livingston, William Melniker, Alvin T. Sapinsley, Norman Steinberg, Louis Weber, Robert M. Weitman, Robert Wile and William Zimmerman. Max B. Blackman was reelected treasurer; Julius M. Collins, recording secretary, and Herman Levine, corresponding secretary.

Officers were installed by lodge members following brief addresses by each member assigned to install a specific officer.

Treasury Invites Bids On Excess Equipment

WASHINGTON, March 27.—The surplus property office of the Treasury is inviting sealed bids, to be opened next month on a date not yet fixed, for a considerable quantity of surplus used photographic equipment, including a considerable number of projectors, both silent and sound, for 35 and 16mm film. A large part of the surplus equipment in the hands of the Treasury consists of laboratory apparatus and film cans, mostly 16mm, and unused and used reels for 16mm film.

Col. Rudd at Newsreel

Col. Augustin G. Rudd has been released from active service in the Army after three years, and has returned to Newsreel Theatres, Inc., as executive vice-president. He was formerly a vice-president. Col. Rudd is also a director of Newsreel Theatres and vice-president of Newsreel Distributors, Inc.

Harry Ross Marries

DALLAS, March 27.—Harry Ross, president of Ross Federal Service, and Gloria Dalchau were married here yesterday. They will return to New York in two weeks.

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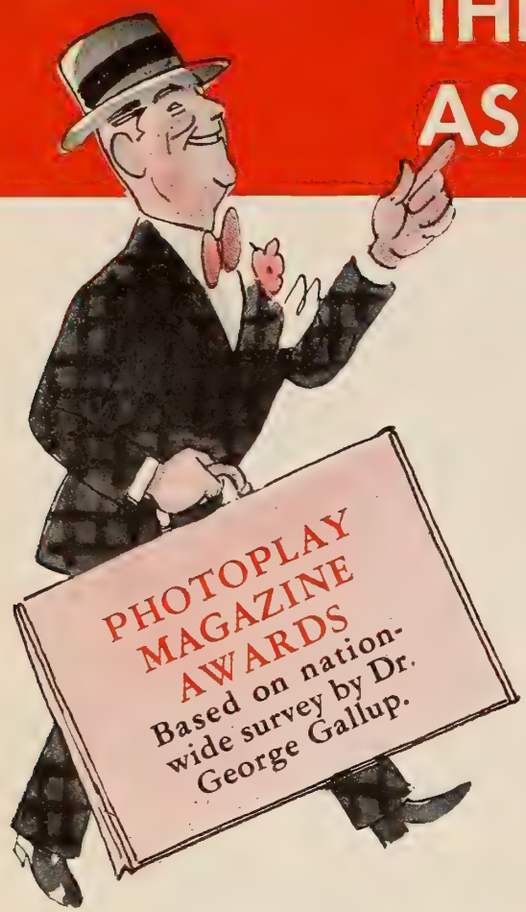
THE STORY OF THE KID WITH THE MEDALS!

THE GALLUP POLL ASKED THE PEOPLE!



THE ANSWER:

"M-G-M HAS TWICE AS MANY HITS AS ANY OTHER COMPANY!"

M-G-M: **4** OUT OF FIRST **10** HITS!
Next Companies 2, 2, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0.

M-G-M: **10** OUT OF FIRST **22** HITS!
Next Companies 5, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 0.

BOXOFFICE REGISTERS PUBLIC OPINION!

THE ANSWER:

"M-G-M EQUALS ALL OTHER COMPANIES COMBINED!"

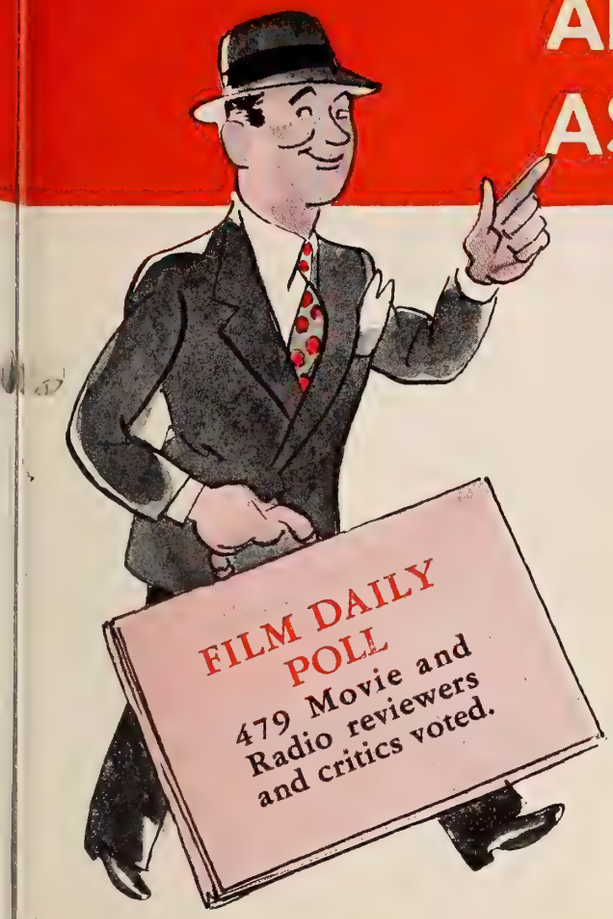
M-G-M: **6** OUT OF **12**
IN BOXOFFICE MAGAZINE'S
BLUE-RIBBON AWARDS
Next Companies: 4, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0.

And in Other Trade Surveys

IN FAME (Quigley Publications):
M-G-M Tops Box-office Champs
M-G-M Tops Stars of Tomorrow

IN SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIEW "LEADERS"
M-G-M Tops in "Top Hits," Stars, New Stars.

AND FILM DAILY ASKED THE CRITICS!



THE ANSWER:

"M-G-M HAS AS MANY HITS AS ALL OTHER COMPANIES COMBINED!"

M-G-M: **5** OUT OF "**10 BEST**" IN FILM DAILY'S ANNUAL VOTE!

Next Companies: 2, 2, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0.

AND LEO SAYS "THANKS TO ALL!"

Thanks from our hearts to all who voted M-G-M Leader again. Combining good pictures with Friendly dealings makes the gay Lion a popular Champ. Here are just a few of the pictures which won him the Laurels of Leadership in the past year:

"THE WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER" • "A GUY NAMED JOE" "MADAME CURIE" • "GASLIGHT" • "DRAGON SEED" "SEE HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE" • "MRS. PARKINGTON" "LOST ANGEL" • "THOUSANDS CHEER" • "TWO GIRLS AND A SAILOR" • "30 SECONDS OVER TOKYO" • "MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS" • "NATIONAL VELVET" AND MANY MORE!

THE FUTURE IS VERY M-G-M—LOOK!

NO GUESSWORK ABOUT IT!

Leadership in 1945 is right below!

M-G-M PRESENTS...

WITHOUT LOVE
Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn, Lucille Ball

OUR VINES HAVE TENDER GRAPES
Ed. G. Robinson, Margaret O'Brien, James Craig, Jackie "Butch" Jenkins

KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY
Lana Turner, Laraine Day, Susan Peters

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY
George Sanders, Hurd Hatfield, Donna Reed

HOLD HIGH THE TORCH
In Technicolor

Elizabeth Taylor, Frank Morgan and Lassie

THE VALLEY OF DECISION
Greer Garson, Gregory Peck, Donald Crisp, Lionel Barrymore

THE CLOCK
Judy Garland, Robert Walker

THRILL OF A ROMANCE
In Technicolor

Van Johnson, Esther Williams, Lauritz Melchior, Tommy Dorsey and his Orchestra, Frances Gifford

WEEKEND AT THE WALDORF
Ginger Rogers, Lana Turner, Walter Pidgeon, Van Johnson, Xavier Cugat

ZIEGFELD FOLLIES
In Technicolor

Fred Astaire, Lucille Ball, Lucille Bremer, Fanny Brice, Judy Garland, Kathryn Grayson, Lena Horne, Gene Kelly, James Melton, Victor Moore, William Powell, Red Skelton, Esther Williams

SON OF LASSIE
In Technicolor

Peter Lawford, Donald Crisp, Lassie and Laddie

ANCHORS AWEIGH
In Technicolor

Frank Sinatra, Kathryn Grayson, Gene Kelly, Jose Iturbi

HER HIGHNESS AND THE BELLBOY
Hedy Lamarr, Robert Walker, June Allyson

PERFECT STRANGERS
Robert Donat, Deborah Kerr

EARLY TO WED
In Technicolor

Van Johnson, Esther Williams, Lucille Ball

THE HARVEY GIRLS
In Technicolor

Judy Garland, John Hodiak, Ray Bolger, Virginia O'Brien, Angela Lansbury, Marjorie Main, Chill Wills

YOLANDA AND THE THIEF
In Technicolor

Fred Astaire, Lucille Bremer, Frank Morgan

THEY WERE EXPENDABLE
Robert Montgomery, John Wayne

21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP
MGM

More Raw Stock to Commercial Users

WASHINGTON, March 27.—Producers of commercial films were assured today of a "substantial" increase in allocations of 35 mm. raw stock for the second quarter, with prospects of further improvement in their situation in Midsummer.

Members of the industry advisory committee, meeting with War Production Board officials, discussed methods of setting up an equitable method of distribution of the 35 mm. film among the several companies.

40% Increase

The increase in allocation for industrial production figures out at about 40 per cent of the first quota, but in footage amounts to only a very few million feet.

Forms on which they are to qualify for withdrawals of raw stock from the pool now being set up for independent producers are beginning to reach the War Production Board, it was learned today. The forms were distributed last week and must be submitted by each independent seeking film, who must show his past use of film for a period of years and certify that he is financially responsible, the owner of necessary rights and otherwise eligible for a quota.

It is understood that no quotas are to be set up, as such, but that the allocation to each independent will be separately worked out on the basis of this past operations and scheduled program.

In 16 mm. the committee was told that negative stock is very tight, positive stock considerably improved and color duplicating film very scarce.

Those Present

Members of the committee attending the meeting included: Harold E. Wondsel, Soundmasters, Inc.; Frank Balkin, Chicago Film Laboratories; Norman E. Wilding, Robert B. Strickland; Burton W. Depue, Burton Holmes Films, Inc.; Edward J. Lamm, Pathescope Company of America; Earl Carpenter, Escar Motion Picture Service; James L. Baker, Mode-Art Pictures; I. R. Rehm, Atlas Educational Film Co.; Robert C. McKean, Caravel Films, Inc.; R. H. Ray, Ray-Bell Films, and Frank K. Speidell, Audio Products.

Independents Draw Up Stock Formula

A subcommittee of the National Association of Motion Picture Independents met here yesterday and formulated suggestions for the relief of individual hardship cases of its membership resulting from raw stock allocations of the War Production Board.

The suggestions, contents of which were not made public, will be submitted by Nat Sanders of English Films, who heads the subcommittee, to Stanley Adams of the Consumers Durable Goods Division on Thursday or Friday in Washington.

"The Affairs of Susan"

(*Continued from page 1*)

ing one husband who is George Brent, and involve Don De Fore, Dennis O'Keefe and Walter Abel, in the order named. No. 3 thinks he is going to marry her, but audiences will be wiser. As a successful actress, Miss Fontaine is entitled to her whimsicalities and her moods, but the problem is Abel doesn't know what they are. Having met Brent, De Fore and O'Keefe, he turns most ungallant and pumps them on the ground he intends to profit by their errors. And so, they tell him.

Brent, stage producer, unfolds the first episode, which returns the sophisticated and glittering Susan to the simple life on an island off Rhode Island. In flashback, he narrates how he discovered her latent dramatic talent and her devastating allegiance to the truth regardless of storm or calm. He marries her, makes her the toast of Broadway, divorces when her truthfulness precipitates the jams which complete fidelity to facts automatically suggest.

But Susan learns her lesson, which, therefore, does not embrace the truth or much of it, and that is where De Fore, lumberman turned Broadway angel, enters. Third in due time is O'Keefe, author whose pattern is wolf but never husband. Susan surmounts them all, including Abel, and eventually returns to Brent. By all odds, audiences will want it that way.

On this ingenious base, attributed to Thomas Monroe and Laszlo Gorog, these two writers, plus Richard Flournoy, have built their screenplay. It has much amusement in it, sizeable elements of the harum-scarum and a couple of helpings of the wacky for additional seasoning. Moreover, it provides Miss Fontaine with a rich part which finds her on screen virtually all of the time and consistently aware of her generous opportunities. Too, it gives the four men in her life pretty fat roles, all well played, and it points up newcomer De Fore in a favorable light. William A. Seiter's direction is not balanced on an even keel in all instances, but overall results are predominantly on his side.

What is to remember about "The Affairs of Susan" is that it is not supposed to be believed. It is supposed to be enjoyed. That objective it attains.

Running time, 110 minutes. General audience classification. Release date not set.

RED KANN

Appoint Church CBS Assistant News Head

Wells Church, radio director for the Republican National Committee in the 1936 and 1940 presidential campaigns, and assistant director of the 1944 campaign, has been appointed assistant director of public affairs and news broadcasts of the Columbia Broadcasting System, it is announced by Paul White, director.

Church replaces Everett Holles who resigned to become news editor and analyst of station WBBM, Columbia Chicago outlet.

$10,000 for Camps

BOSTON, March 27.—Members of the Variety Club, headed by Theodore Fleisher, have pledged $10,000 for free two-week vacations for wives and children of servicemen members who are overseas.

Lt. Hicks Wounded

First Lieutenant Francis C. Hicks, AUS, has been seriously wounded in Germany. Prior to entering service, before Pearl Harbor, he had been employed as assistant manager of Fabian's St. George Theatre, Staten Island. He had been with the circuit for seven years.

Waldron Watson Dead

CHATHAM, Ontario, March 27.—P. O. Waldron Watson, formerly of the Capitol Theatre here, reported missing in action July 19 after a crackup while raiding Cologne, Germany, has officially been declared dead, the RCAF has announced.

O'Donnell Honors Shugrue and Shelton

DALLAS, March 27.—Ned Shugrue, director of motion picture and special events division of the War Finance Committee of the Treasury Department, will be honored at a dinner given by R. J. O'Donnell, Southwestern chairman of the War Activities Committee tomorrow evening at Variety Club quarters in the Hotel Adolphus.

With his assistant, Turner Shelton, Shugrue arrived in Dallas today.

Stanley Collects Food

In cooperation with the Russian War Relief's drive for food for Russia, the Stanley Theatre, here, will accept food contributions in lieu of payment for admission to the current film "Wait for Me." David Fine, managing director of the Stanley, stated that the drive will continue throughout the run of the present picture.

Terry Turner Names Two

Terry Turner, RKO Radio exploitation head, has announced two changes in his field staff: Charles Shaw has been assigned to Memphis and New Orleans, while Joseph Longo has been assigned to San Francisco.

Music Hall Planning 6th Dawn Service

For the sixth consecutive year, Radio City Music Hall, by arrangement with G. S. Eyssell, managing director, will be the scene of an Easter Dawn Service on the morning of Easter, next Sunday, held annually under auspices of the Greater New York Federation of Churches.

The service, "Glory of Easter," will be held from seven A.M. to eight A.M. and will be broadcast locally over WMCA during the first half hour and nationally over WEAF and NBC during the second half. Rev. Dr. Robert W. Searle, general secretary of the Greater New York Federation, and the Rev. Dr. Frederick B. Newell, president of the Federation, will preside. Easter messages will be given by Dr. Searle and the Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, minister of Christ Methodist Church of New York.

Roy Theatre Wins Some-Run Decision

Paul B. Habans, arbitrator in the New Orleans tribunal, has rendered a some-run award in favor of Benton Roy, operating the Roy Theatre, Mansura, La., against 20th-Fox RKO Radio, Warners and Paramount, the American Arbitration Association reported here yesterday.

The award directed the defendants to offer the complainant pictures on runs the terms and conditions of which are the same as that shown by evidence to be the practice in August, 1942, that is, a proportionate part of first-runs, in addition to those of second-run.

Closing on Good Friday

WASHINGTON, March 27.—Ted Schlanger, zone manager of Warner Theatres, here, announces that in observance of Good Friday, the following Stanley-Warner Theatres will not open on that day until two P. M.: Mastbaum, Stanley, Boyd, Aldine, Fox, Stanton, Earle, Palace, Victoria, Capitol and Center.

In addition the Family, Savoy and Princess will be closed between the hours of 12 noon and two P. M.

Bronze Star for Miller

The Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service has been awarded to Major Alton Glenn Miller, former band leader, who has been missing in action after an airplane flight in Europe last December. The award was presented to his wife, Mrs Helen Miller, of Tenafly, N. J., by Col. F. R. Kerr, acting director of the Army Special Services Division.

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Internationally

Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin at the Yalta Conference, prelude to the San Francisco World Security Conference.

WORLD SECURITY C

(By Official

For the greatest assemblage of international leaders, statesmen and journalists in world history! To be held under the sponsorship of the

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Honored!

Scene from "Blood on the Sun" starring James Cagney and Sylvia Sidney.

Y CONFERENCE PREMIERE!

(Invitation Only)

San Francisco Press Club during the week of May 1 . . . concurrent with the discussions on the Pacific War and World Peace.

"ON THE SUN"

• Directed by FRANK LLOYD

with

PORTER HALL • JOHN EMERY • ROBERT ARMSTRONG
WALLACE FORD • ROSEMARY DE CAMP • JOHN HALLORAN

Screenplay by Lester Cole • Additional Scenes by Nathaniel Curtis
From a Story by Garrett Fort

A HISTORY-MAKING **U. A.** RELEASE!

Quality Production Increases: Eyssell

(Continued from page 1)

return from a three-week trip to the Coast to look over product. Eyssell felt the raw stock shortage was resulting in shorter films.

"The blood-and-thunder war picture, the sole claim of which was to capitalize on a subject uppermost in our minds, is on the wane. But the picture which uses a war background for the telling of a fine story is certainly going to play a big part in the immediate future of the industry," he added, citing, "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "A Guy Named Joe" and "They Were Expendible," as being in the latter class.

The trend in handling classical music is a new one, Eyssell felt, in that Hollywood is using its operatic and concert stars as feature players, inserting sequences in films, rather than forcing them to bear the brunt as stars.

Eyssell said that he felt television is definitely a post-war project and not of present concern, adding: "Television will be of great benefit to theatres when tied-in in the right way." He declared that the Music Hall is planning the production of opera and operetta on its stage.

Only One Theatre Intact In Manila, OWI Reports

Few motion picture theatres in Manila escaped ruination in the struggle of freeing the capital city of the Philippines from the Japs, according to a report received by the Overseas Branch of the Office of War Information and released yesterday, here, by Louis Lober, assistant chief of the OWI's motion picture bureau.

Only one first-run house, the Times, was found to be in condition for immediate showing of films and arrangements have been completed by Manila representatives of the OWI film unit to open this theatre as soon as electric power is available.

The only other houses in the city that will be able to open in the near future are the Ideal and the Lyric. At the Ideal, the lenses had disappeared, although projector and sound equipment were undamaged. Some renovation will be necessary at the Lyric, Lober said, but both projector and screen were reported intact.

The first-run Metropolitan, Capitol, and State were completely demolished. Among other theatres in bad condition and unsuitable for use are the Elite, Lotes, Apollo, Alhambra, Algeria, Gloria, Luxon, Manila, Reno, Tejeron and Madrix.

Distribution of American films in the Philippines is entrusted to the film unit of OWI, which has 45 specially-selected features and 45 documentaries, all in English, ready for showing there when conditions permit. The prints were prepared by the American industry at its own expense and turned over to OWI for use in the U. S. Government information program. To help bring Filipinos up to date on news of the world, a weekly service by air of United Newsreel has already been started.

Distribution of films in the Philippines is headed by Robert Perkins, who was a representative of Universal in the Far East before joining the OWI. Michael Bergher, a former Columbia executive in the Far East, who had headquarters in Japan, is now chief film officer for OWI Pacific outposts. Jules V. Mayfack, formerly with M-G-M, is a recent addition to OWI's staff of film officers in the Pacific.

Court Reversal on Disney Damages

RKO Radio, here, reports that the Appellate Division has reversed judgments of close to $25,000 each which were recovered in Supreme Court last year by Michael Myerberg against Walt Disney Productions and Kidder Peabody and Co., respectively. The judgments resulted from a jury's verdict in favor of Myerberg in an action brought by him for commission in connection with bringing Disney and Kidder Peabody together in the underwriting of a Disney stock issue in 1940. The defendants denied that Myerberg had brought them together and they appealed.

The Appellate Division, in reversing the judgments of the lower court, dismissed the complaint as well, thus disposing of the case without the necessity of a new trial. Meyerberg was represented on the appeal by Emil K. Ellis; Kidder Peabody by Frank J. Berberich, and Walt Disney by James V. Hayes of Donovan, Leisure, Newton and Lumbard and also by Franklin Waldheim.

To Tradeshow 'Decision'

All M-G-M exchanges, except New York and Los Angeles, will tradeshow "The Valley of Decision" on April 24. New York and Los Angeles will show the film on April 10.

Borzage Buys "Concerto"

HOLLYWOOD, March 27.—Frank Borzage has bought "Concerto," an original by Borden Chase, for $100,000, to be produced in Technicolor as his first film for Republic.

'Past' Through Columbia

HOLLYWOOD, March 27.—Columbia will release "Pardon My Past," which Leslie Fenton and Fred MacMurray are producing independently with the latter starred.

Lett to Atlanta

ATLANTA, March 27.—Scott Lett, branch manager of Paramount's Charlotte branch, has been transferred to the Atlanta branch and will handle the Tennessee territory. Harry Dashiell, former Tennessee salesman, has been transferred to the Charlotte branch in the same capacity.

THE PICTURE
THAT PUTS ADVENTURE
IN TECHNICOLOR...
AND BUSINESS IN
YOUR THEATRE!

Sales Heads Back Curfew

Several distribution company executives moved yesterday to attempt to induce the Loop Theatre in Toledo to abide by the Byrnes midnight curfew by instructing their branch and district managers to visit the theatre and seek cooperation of Jack O'Donnell, Loop owner.

The Ohio War Manpower Commission through John L. Craig, State WMC director, had wired distributors to "insist" that their films not be shown at the Loop Theatre after midnight.

Some distribution executives expressed doubt that more could be done contractually since commitments were in existence with the exhibitor before the curfew went into effect.

WMC Asks Film Ban To Enforce Curfew

(Continued from page 1)

whole the motion picture industry has cooperated splendidly in making the curfew effective, making the Toledo violation more glaring.

Will Withdraw Curfew When the War Permits

The midnight curfew will be withdrawn or modified "as soon as war progress permits," War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes told New York night club proprietors in a letter made public here yesterday.

10 'U' Contracts to Radio Contestants

Contracts for appearances in Universal's forthcoming "On Stage Everybody" will be awarded during the final broadcast tonight of the Blue Network program of the same title.

The 10 winners, who competed amongst 4,000 professional entertainers during the program's 42 weeks on the air, are: Ronnie Gibson, Strawberry Russell, Beatrice Fung Oye, Jean Hamilton, June Brady, Cyril Smith, Bob Hopkins, Georgianna Bannister, Ilene Woods and Billy Usher. They will leave here for the Coast tomorrow.

The radio program, produced by Lou Goldberg, who will be associate producer of the picture starring Peggy Ryan, has lent itself to exploitation tie-ups for the picture for the past 42 weeks. In addition, the 10 winners will continue on various radio programs during the making of the picture, two of them on their own Blue Network program "Sunny Side of the Street."

Village Atmosphere

Fritz Lang has begun shooting Greenwich Village backgrounds here for "Scarlet Street," first of the newly organized New World Properties' films, to be released by Universal. Joan Bennett also is here from the Coast for shooting on the picture, based on the French play, "La Chienne."

Para., Loew's Differ On Product Terms

Difficulty in agreeing on terms has prevented Paramount and Loew's from getting together on a product deal for the latter's 66 houses in the Metropolitan area. For the past four or five months no Paramount pictures have played Loew theatres in New York and those circuits which play Paramount after Loew's have been without Paramount product in consequence. To date, Paramount has not elected to sell away from Loew's. Negotiations will continue, it is understood.

Davis Jubilant After Trip to South Africa

LONDON, March 27.—John Davis, managing director of Odeon Theatres of Great Britain, has returned here after a nine-week visit to Egypt, Palestine, Capetown, Johannesburg and Kenya, stating that he is "happier than ever" over results toward securing theatre outlets for British product in those areas. He declined to discuss particulars, however, pending a conference with J. Arthur Rank, British industry leader.

$843,607 S-C Net

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 27.—Stromberg-Carlson Co. reports 1944 net income of $843,607, equal to $2.97 a common share, compared with net income of $726,815, or $2.51 a common share, in 1943. Sales totaled $55,140,213, an increase of 35 per cent from the $40,946,618 reported for the preceding year.

Technicolor Profit $859,156 in 1944

(Continued from page 1)

1944 was $11,194,380, against $9,292,927 in 1943, and footage of positive prints rose from 125,773,775 to 161,979,084. An agreement recently was made between Technicolor and Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association for a line of credit up to $2,500,000 for the next ten years, Kalmus reported.

Twenty-nine U. S. features were photographed in Technicolor during 1944, according to the report, and four others were filmed by Technicolor, Ltd., British affiliate. During the year, also, the company made prints on a wide range of subjects for most departments of the U. S. Government. Thirty-one features are either being photographed at this time or are in preparation for filming this year.

With the demand for Technicolor's services exceeding the supply, the company is following a policy of taking care of its old customers up to their past volume before acceding to the requests of others. In the postwar, the company plans to double its capacity, having bought an entire block of land in Hollywood. Thus, it will be able to take care of about one-third of the entire film industry, Kalmus states. "Your management," he adds, "believes that only the lack of facilities and high costs as compared with black and white retard the industry from going all or nearly all to color."

G. C. F.'s
Proudest Achievement
"Colonel Blimp"
Premiere! Gotham Theatre, New York, March 29th!
from Terrific U.A.

Casanave Plans New Distribution Unit

(Continued from page 1)

800 theatres, will be participants. Film Classics owns outright only the New York, Buffalo and Indianapolis exchanges of the 25 which now make up its national distribution organization.

Independent producers seeking new outlets are understood to have displayed interest in the new distributing organization. Casanave recently acquired reissue rights to three Selznick films: "The Prisoner of Zenda," "The Garden of Allah" and "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer." He is understood to have raw stock allocations through the Casanave-Artlee releases which he has been handling.

Ready to Start

The new distributing organization could get underway on short notice since the exchange facilities and manpower are already on hand. The franchise holders involved have been distributing some 31 Goldwyn reissues, seven Selznicks and several Hal Roach and Gaumont-British reissues.

Representatives of West Coast Film Classics exchanges are in New York now conferring with Casanave on details of the new organization. The original move started last week in Chicago when Casanave stepped into the picture during a meeting of the exchange representatives there.

Robert Lippert and William David, who head Action Pictures, are being mentioned among independent producer units interested in obtaining distribution under the contemplated setup. Their initial picture, "Wildfire," is planned in Cine-Color, and is the first of four films contemplated.

Expect Rejection of Admission Control

(Continued from page 1)

many members that there ought to be no amendments to the bill other than to extend the measure." Wagner said it was probable the committee would limit the extended life of the Act to one year, instead of 18 months as proposed.

Woolley Denies That Films Are a Luxury

Daniel P. Woolley, regional OPA administrator in New York, in a talk yesterday supporting OPA's request for control over amusement costs, denied that motion pictures are a luxury.

Woolley said: "I believe that recreation and entertainment are an essential part of our wartime living, and the elimination of movies would be a calamity for our home front morale."

Woolley charged that admission prices increased 31.1 per cent between May, 1942, and November, 1944, and said that "the most flagrant increases have occurred in the smaller houses in outlying sections and residential areas."

Barger Reopening Rialto

CHICAGO, March 27.—N. S. Barger's Downtown Theatre, now dark, will revert to a policy of burlesque and second run films March 30, at which time its old name Rialto will be revived.

Miss Stern to NBC Video

Charlotte F. Stern of the NBC advertising and promotion staff has been named promotion manager for NBC television, according to an announcement by Charles P. Hammond, director of the network's advertising-promotion department.

Propose a School for Delinquents' Parents

Cincinnati, March 27.—A school for parents of delinquent children will be established in a downtown location here, it is announced by Theodore S. Marty, superintendent of a suburban public school. Attendance by parents at twice-a-month sessions will be voluntary at first, but subsequently may be on a compulsary basis.

'Down to earth' lectures will be given by authorities on the legal responsibility of parents, the home, church and recreation, with motion pictures expected to be included in the last mentioned subject.

Canteen Honors R.C.

The Red Cross War Fund drive and patients at St. Alban's Hospital will be honored at the Silver Screen Canteen, Fraternal Clubhouse, here, tonight. The Canteen, whose hostesses are employed in the home offices and exchanges of the motion picture industry, is sponsored by Screen Office and Professional Employees Guild and Screen Publicists Guild, both UOPWA-CIO.

Sumner Welles to Blue

Chester J. LaRoche, vice-chairman of American Broadcasting Co. (Blue Network), announces the appointment of Sumner Welles, diplomat and former Under Secretary of State, as Blue Nework advisor on the coverage of the San Francisco Conference and on the subsequent problem of peace and international affairs.

Walsh, Hutcheson Talk Strike Today

(Continued from page 1)

in New York from California yesterday.

Pat Casey, producers' labor contact, has also arrived here "to stand by to see what materializes from the conferences between Walsh and Hutcheson," he told MOTION PICTURE DAILY. Casey indicated that he will not participate in the conferences between the presidents of the internationals, and Walsh could not be reached for comment as to whether other American Federation of Labor officials will be called upon to help resolve the issues.

Hollywood Has Quietest Day Since Strike Began

HOLLYWOOD, March 27.—The studio strike continued in status quo today, which was described by Roy Brewer, IATSE vice-president, as the quietest since the walkout over two weeks ago.

The Conference of Studio Unions' strategy board met perfunctorily, devoting the session chiefly to mapping plans for the carpenters' 20th anniversary breakfast next Sunday.

Meanwhile, IATSE insurgents, headed by property man Irwin P. Hentschel, who figured early in the strike news when they refused to perform struck work, invited all IATSE members interested in local autonomy and resentful of international domination to attend a mass meeting Friday night.

Allied Buys Monogram

The Allied Circuit, operating 61 theatres in Illinois, has booked the entire Monogram output for the 1944-45 season.

Surrounded by lovelies hand-chosen by master-of-glamor, Earl Carroll, beautiful Constance Moore dances and sings in one of the many spectacular production numbers in Republic's hit, "Earl Carroll Vanities."

ADVT.

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 61 NEW YORK, U.S.A., THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1945 TEN CENTS

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Grosses Hit By Pre-Easter Business Lull

'Hotel Berlin' Leads; 8 Above Par in 17 Cities

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

"Hotel Berlin" in strong initial weeks and holdovers in 15 theatres in 11 cities leads in MOTION PICTURE DAILY's reports of estimated box office receipts from 17 key cities, excluding New York City, for the week ended March 29.

"A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" continues to show outstanding drawing power in extended holdovers and moveover runs in 12 theatres in 10 of the key cities. Other films scoring above par include "Tonight and Every Night," "Practically Yours," "The Three Caballeros," "This Man's Navy," "Frisco Sal" and "Objective Burma," bringing to eight the number of films scoring above average in a quiet pre-Easter week generally

(Continued on page 6)

Skouras, Rank to Resume Discussions

Spyros Skouras, 20th Century-Fox president, is scheduled to leave next week for London to confer with Francis L. Harley, the company's British managing director, and Larry Kent, 20th-Fox's representative on the board of directors of Gaumont-British, on post-war operations.

While in England, Skouras is also expected to discuss with J. Arthur Rank further arrangements for 20th-Fox to distribute some of the Rank

(Continued on page 6)

112 Permits Now on File for Television

Applications for new commercial television stations pending before the Federal Communications Commission in Washington now total 112, according to the Television Broadcasters Association. The applications come from potential television broadcasters in 31 states and the District of Columbia and would provide service to millions of viewers in 50 markets. The 112 applications are in addition to the

(Continued on page 6)

Hays Hails Postwar Peace Charter of Labor, Management

A peace charter for labor and management, intended to prevent future industrial strife, as announced yesterday in Washington by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor; Philip Murray, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and Eric Johnston, president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, was described last night by Will H. Hays, speaking for the organized film industry, as "a long step in the right direction toward that peace at home so necessary for the maintenance of world peace."

Some film leaders saw a special significance in its eventual application in situations like the studio strike which

(Continued on page 6)

Leo Devaney Heads Canadian Pioneers

TORONTO, March 28.—Leo M. Devaney, Canadian general manager of RKO Radio, was chosen president of Canadian Picture Pioneers at a meeting today, succeeding Clair Hague of Toronto, president and founder of the association, who died a few weeks ago. Oscar R. Hanson was made vice president.

The directors decided to establish a Hague memorial fund on a subscription basis to assist needy oldtimers of the theatre and film trade.

Cowdin Reports a Net of $1,083,601

J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the Universal board, announces that net profits of the company for 13 weeks ended Jan. 27, aggregated $1,083,601, after all charges and taxes, comparing with $1,214,001 for the 1944 corresponding period.

Before taxes, consolidated profits amounted to $1,737,601, compared with $1,946,701 in the same period of last year.

7th Pre-drive Effort Starts

The film industry's Seventh War Loan pre-drive campaign got under way yesterday with the arrival in New York of Charles M. Thall of San Francisco, coordinator for the West Coast, and David B. Wallerstein Chicago, coordinator for the Midwest.

E. W. (Gene) Street, Knoxville, coordinator for the South, is expected in New York in a few days. With Joseph Kinsky, chairman of the coordinating committee and in direct charge of the East, the coordinators will confer with Samuel Pinanski, national chairman, regarding final details of the nationwide campaign organization in which the stated purpose of the national committee will be to bring

(Continued on page 6)

"The Corn Is Green"

[*Warner Bros.*]

THIS communique properly gets under way by admitting to all who may read it that its purveyor is a fall guy, professionally, for Bette Davis. With him, she can do little or no wrong and, when others do not share that view so blanket-wise, he has been known to turn obstinately to his Davis blind spot and let the matter rest.

However, in the role which Ethel Barrymore performed with such distinction on the New York and other stages around the country, Miss Davis once again so clearly re-emphasizes herself as an actress of stature and ability that obstinacy and blind spot have no reason to fight through any issues. "The Corn Is Green" is a fine drama and Miss Davis is fine in it.

She is a British schoolteacher who inherits a home in a byway village of Wales. There, she finds herself appalled by child labor in the coal mines, reactionary and sluggish thinking on the part of the townspeople and the squire who lords over them. In true allegiance to her profession, she sets out to open a school, is blocked, but surmounts disappointment and setback by converting her home into a classroom.

Her pupils are backward, shy and reluctant at first. Then the magic of new worlds, unfurled through knowledge of the printed word and through the rudiments of basic education, catch on. The village becomes happier and so, too, do its people. Of all who chance her way, however, it is John Dall who

(Continued on page 3)

Settlement of Studio Strike Is Sought Here

Walsh-Hutcheson Talks Will Continue Today

No decisive action resulted from the first conference held at the Hotel Commodore here yesterday between Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, William Hutcheson, president of the International Carpenters and Joiners, producers' representatives and other union officials, looking to a settlement of the Coast studio strike. The meeting will be resumed at noon today.

Yesterday's conferences were devoted to exploring the situation involved in the jurisdictional dispute between IATSE property craftsmen, Local 44, and Studio Set Decorators, Local 1421, which has led to the current three-week-old strike called by Conference of Studio Unions' president Herbert K. Sorrell. Hutcheson told MOTION PICTURE DAILY following the meeting yesterday that any agreement reached here would have to

(Continued on page 3)

Loew Voting Today On Stock-Split

Loew's stockholders, at a special meeting at the company's home office today, will vote on a proposed plan, already approved by the directors to split the company's common stock into three new shares for each share presently outstanding, this to "broaden the market for the stock." Specifically, Loew's seeks to increase the present authorized 4,000,000 shares, of which 1,685,109 are outstanding, with a par value of $44,609,050, to 6,000,000, of

(Continued on page 6)

Legislative Deluge Hits Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA, March 28.—Fred P. Hare, Jr., has proposed in the House of Representatives, a five-cent tax on each foot of motion picture film brought into the State.

Another measure, sponsored by Rep. Joseph A. Longo, Northampton, would require theatre managers and owners to flash on the screen diagrams of seats and exits so the public

(Continued on page 6)

Personal Mention

NATE J. BLUMBERG, Universal president, is scheduled to arrive in New York from the Coast on Monday.

•

LOUIS FINSKE, Comerford Theatres official, is vacationing in Cuba with his wife.

•

LOUIS LOBER, assistant chief of the Office of War Information Overseas Film Bureau, is on vacation.

•

MRS. JESSE LASKY has arrived in New York from the Coast.

•

ROY HAINES, Warner Western and Southern sales manager, will arrive in New York tomorrow from the Coast.

•

SPENCE PIERCE, 20th Century-Fox Atlanta publicity representative, is visiting Memphis.

•

JAMES GILLISPIE, 20th Century-Fox Atlanta publicity representative, is in New York.

•

GUS KING, president of Capital City Supply Co., Atlanta, has returned there from Miami Beach.

•

LT. BOLIVAR HYDE, formerly with the Navy Motion Picture Division, Miami, is now stationed in Washington.

•

JOHN J. DACEY, JR., son of JOHN J. DACEY, local RKO exchange short subject sales manager, has been appointed Goodall-L. C. Chase Fabrics Corp. advertising manager.

•

RAY BELL, well known motion picture publicist, formerly with M-G-M here, and now with Pennsylvania-Central airlines, is the father of a son.

•

HASKELL MASTERS, formerly vice-president of Odeon Theatres, Ltd., Canada, returned to New York yesterday from a Florida vacation.

•

J. ARTHUR HIRSCH, Canadian exhibitor, is in New York.

•

ARTHUR M. LOEW, head of M-G-M's foreign department, has delayed his return from South America for three weeks.

Greenberg to Para.

Abe Greenberg, night picture editor of the *Daily News*, here, will join Paramount on Monday, as picture assignment editor at the Coast Studios. Greenberg's initial assignment will be the setting up of a picture assignment desk patterned after newspapers.

Where Is Herr Adolph?

The German news agency D. N. B. reported yesterday in a broadcast picked up from Berlin that Carl Ludwig Diehl had signed a contract to appear in a new Emil Jannings picture entitled, "Where Is Herr Billing?"

1,313,394 Theatre Seats in N. Y., N. J.

The New York Film Board of Trade reveals that there are 1,171 theatres in the New York and New Jersey Metropolitan territory, with a seating capacity of 1,313,394. Of these, 1,040 are open, with a capacity of 1,210,488; 131 are closed with a capacity of 102,906.

In New York there are 849 theatres with a capacity of 960,108 and in New Jersey there are 322 theatres with 353,286 seats. Circuit theatres total 858, having a capacity of 1,068,114.

121 N. Y. Affiliates

Affiliated circuit theatres in New York total 121, with a 253,858 capacity, while unaffiliated circuit New York houses number 499, having a 530,704 capacity. New Jersey affiliates total 69, with a 122,299 capacity, and New Jersey unaffiliated circuit theatres totaling 169, with a 161,253 capacity.

Independent theatres in New York and New Jersey number 313, with a capacity of 245,280. In New York there are 229 independents, seating 178,474 and in New Jersey there are 84, seating 66,806.

Warnerites in Service Pass the 4,000 Mark

Despite some offsetting discharges, Warner employees in the Armed Services continue to increase and now stand at 4,058. Casualties to date total 58.

Inductions of employees are still taking place at a higher rate than the number of discharges. The department most affected is the theatre branch with a heavy turnover in ushers particularly.

Briskin Ends Study Of Navy Production

Samuel Briskin has completed a special three-week assignment for the Secretary of the Navy. He conducted a study of Navy motion picture production problems and has submitted his report to the Secretary through Capt. Gene Markey, USNR, director of the Navy Photographic Services, under whose auspices the survey was conducted.

Explosion Injures Mgrs.

CHARLOTTE, March 28. — Barney Hohenstine and Jack Tenant, manager and assistant manager of the Tryon, here, were both badly burned last night when the theatre's air conditioning unit exploded. The audience left in order. Damage to the theatre, however, was slight.

$10,250 'Gray' Opening

LOS ANGELES, March 28.—"The Picture of Dorian Gray" opened at the Ritz, Egyptian and Los Angeles, here, yesterday, for what M-G-M claimed to be a higher gross than any films to play the three houses simultaneously, getting $10,250.

Mono. Diverts Stock To Release Needs

Raw stock allocations have so affected the smaller companies, like Monogram and PRC, that in the first quarter, which will end in a few days, Monogram was forced to divert much of its raw stock earmarked for production purposes, for use as release prints, it is learned here. The company had no pictures in production at one time, not because of the strike, which did not affect Monogram, but because of its stock shortage.

Company executives reasoned that it would be better to use their stock for release prints, especially in view of the backlog of 11 films which Monogram has, largest in its history. This backlog is unusual because company policy has been to maintain a liquid condition where releases are concerned, but it has had no alternative because of the lack of raw stock for prints.

Skouras Show to Aid Clothing Collection

A salute to the United National Clothing Collection Committee will be made on the Skouras War Effort air presentation of "This Is Our Cause" over WOR-Mutual on a Coast-to-Coast network, Saturday, from 4:30 to 5:00 P. M. The committee of which Henry Kaiser is chairman, and which is comprised of some 50 organizations, including UNRRA, will appeal for 150,000,000 pounds of clothing to be shipped overseas to liberated countries.

Confidential Starts In Chicago April 13

CHICAGO, March 28.—C. E. Richmond has been appointed representative of Confidential Reports, Inc., in this territory. An office was opened here last week. Its first local assignment will be the checking of Columbia's "A Song to Remember" at the Apollo starting April 13, it was learned. The new organization has as members Paramount, RKO, Universal, United Artists and Columbia.

Sears' Return Delayed

Although Gradwell L. Sears, vice-president in charge of United Artists distribution, who entered New York Hospital on Feb. 7 because of a minor heart ailment, is responding favorably to treatment, he will not, as expected, return to his office on April 2.

Whelan Back from S. A.

Leslie Whelan, 20th Century-Fox foreign publicity director, has returned here from a two-month trip through South America. Whelan made a survey on advertising and publicity in connection with the company's branches. He also prepared for the showing in that territory of "Wilson." Whelan, who visited 14 countries in Latin and Central America, accompanied Eduardo Cohen, newly-appointed supervisor of Latin America.

Coming Events

Today — Loew's annual stockholders' meeting, New York.
Apr. 1-30—'United National Clothing Collection' drive.
Apr. 14—'Cinema Night' party, Variety Club, Cincinnati.
Apr. 29 — Hal Halperin Memorial Show, Civic Opera House, Chicago.
May 14-June 30—Seventh War Loan Drive.
May 15—20th Century-Fox annual stockholders' meeting, New York.

RWLB Will Act on Exchange Pleas

Favorable action by the Regional War Labor Board in Chicago having jurisdiction over Chicago, Indianapolis and Milwaukee film exchanges is expected within the next few days on applications pending before the board for 10 per cent wage increases for exchange service workers in these exchanges and for a system of job classifications with minimum and maximum wage scales, also minimum 10 per cent wage increase for exchange office workers.

David Halper of the office of Judge Matthew M. Levy, IATSE attorney, and William Keets of the law office of Dwight, Harris, Koegel and Caskey representing 20th Century-Fox, returned to New York yesterday after consulting with the Chicago RWLB on the applications.

'4A's' Mull Charter For Screen Extras

The executive board of the '4A' actor unions has received an application for a charter from the newly-formed Screen Extras Guild, Hollywood, and is expected to issue a statement on what action is to be taken on it early next week. The executive board has also received a charter application from the Screen Players Union, also Hollywood, which is involved in a jurisdictional dispute with the Screen Actors Guild over actors doing bits, stunts and singing.

Buchanan to Start Hollywood Branch

HOLLYWOOD, March 28. — John Hertz, Jr., executive vice president of Buchanan and Co., today announced the establishment of a branch office in Hollywood, under the direction of Arthur Menken, to furnish a complete advertising agency service to film clients. Menken, who has returned from Europe, where he served with the Office of Strategic Services, will work in collaboration with Sumer W. Singer.

Neilson Handles 'Dance'

Rutgers Neilson, RKO publicity manager here, has been reappointed public relations chairman of the Dance Educators of America, according to an announcement by Phyllis Eastwood, president of the Dancing Masters of America affiliate.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday, and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Theo Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor: London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1945 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10.

Seek Settlement of Studio Strike Here

(Continued from page 1)

be correlated with conditions existing in Hollywood. Sorrell is not represented at the meeting here, it was said.

Nicholas M. Schenck, President of Loew's and Pat Casey, producers' labor representative, were among producer representatives who participated in the conference yesterday.

Local 44 Members Hit Walsh's Work Orders

HOLLYWOOD, March 28—IATSE property mens' Local 44, the union directly contesting the Studio Set Decorators Local 1421 for jurisdiction over work which is at issue in the studio strike, late last night in a regular monthly membership meeting adopted a resolution against performing other than their own work despite the order of Richard F. Walsh, IATSE president, to execute any assignments given them by employers.

IATSE vice president Roy Brewer and IATSE officials Carl Cooper and Floyd M. Billingsley today issued a statement declaring that last night's action was "illegal" because it was preceded by an order from Walsh. They stated: "The IATSE expects all members of Local 44 to observe the president's order to perform such work as is assigned by employers."

Later in the day Brewer said the property men's action had not affected the progress of production. Nevertheless, observers anticipated a similarly stormy session tonight when IATSE Lamp Operators Local 728, which has been manning studio generators in place of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers men, were to meet in a special session on whether to continue to render this service. A negative decision would confront the producers with the most serious problem yet faced.

B. and K. and Warner Pass Up Goldwyns

CHICAGO, March 28.—Balaban and Katz and Warner Theatres, maintaining their policy of not playing percentage pictures in their neighborhood houses, have passed up Samuel Goldwyn's "The Princess and the Pirate." The picture was sold away to the Essaness and Schoenstadt circuits this week by W. J. Heineman, Goldwyn's general sales manager, playing as a single feature in the Crawford, Byrd, Sheridan, and Piccadilly theatres.

Loew Books 'Nineties'

"Gay Nineties," a six-reeler with some shots going back to 1900, has been booked by Loew's for its New England theatres territory. Included in the sequences are shots of Edward Windsor as an infant, the Gans-Nelson fight, Valentino, Chaplin, Arbuckle, Pickford and others.

Blair with RKO

S. Barret McCormick, director of advertising-publicity for RKO Radio, has engaged Harry N. Blair to act as trade paper contact on the staff of Rutgers Neilson, publicity manager.

More to Close Friday

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.—All major downtown theatres will be closed until 2:30 p.m. on Good Friday.

"The Corn Is Green"

(Continued from page 1)

shows the greatest promise. Natively keen and fortunate possessor of a good, but latent and undeveloped mind, he flowers intellectually under Miss Davis' careful training until he wins a scholarship at Oxford.

For him, no sacrifice proves enough. Miss Davis sells some of her capital assets to keep her rural school going. When Dall gets involved with Bessie and unknowingly becomes the father of her child, this heroic and noble teacher adopts the baby to clear the encumbrance which threatens the young student and his career.

What reward for all this? Nothing tangible, nothing concrete. But hers is the overwhelming satisfaction of knowing her effort is not in vain, that she has contributed an opportunity to a brilliant mind, worthy of aid and getting it. She exacts no tribute beyond suggesing that the thinking power she has set loose from its shackles some day might return to fight for the elimination of child labor in the coal pits.

That's the drama. It is effective. It is well produced, by Jack Chertok, and directed with understanding and feeling by Irving Rapper. It is performed, in keeping, chiefly by Miss Davis but with the aid of a superior cast. Dall, as a newcomer to Hollywood, is excellent. Likewise are Joan Lorring, as Bessie; Rhys Williams, as Mr. Jones; Mildred Dunnock, as Miss Ronberry; Rosalind Ivan, as Mrs. Watty, and Nigel Bruce, as the squire.

This is an attraction which will appeal primarily to adults. However, it also has its star and her following. There is the fact this was a successful play, adapted well for the screen by Casey Robinson and Frank Cavett.

The corn may be green, but it also is very good.

Running time 114 mins. Adult classification. Release date not set.

RED KANN

Little Raw Stock for Repentant Argentina

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Having finally declared war upon Germany and Japan, Argentina now is expected to ask the United States for renewal of raw stock supplies and other commodities which have been denied her for past year.

There were indications, however, that other countries, which have been consistently working for the Allied cause, will not be deprived of needed materials in order to supply this last-minute adherent to Democratic principles. Argentina may get little more than token allocations until the production situation clears up somewhat.

Claude Lee Addresses Intermountain Group

SALT LAKE CITY, March 28.—The industry's gift of over 6,000 films, each seen by approximately 1,250,000 service men, was described by Claude F. Lee, Paramount public relations director, in a War Activities Committee report here yesterday before the Intermountain Theatre Association.

Sam L. Gillette of Tooele, Utah, presided, and Idaho representatives included I. H. Harris, Hugo Jorgenson, Helmer George, Paul Demordant and Hugh Drennan. Also present was Tracy Barham, vice-president and general manager of Fox Intermountain Theatres.

McGuire's Son Missing

Willis R. McGuire of the Army Air Force, has been reported missing in action, presumably from a combat flight, over the Western European front. He is the son of P. A. McGuire, director of sales promotion for International Projector.

Stuyvesant Chartered

ALBANY, N. Y., March 28.—Stuyvesant Theatre, Inc. has been incorporated to conduct a theatrical business in New York. Incorporators are: Rose Stern, Lillian Stern and Shirley Agush, New York. Jesse L. Stern was incorporating attorney.

Harry McDonald of 'U' Dies Suddenly

Harry McDonald, veteran theatre manager and advertising-exploitation director, died suddenly in Hartford, Conn., Tuesday, while on a business assignment for Universal, for whom he was field representative working out of the Boston office.

McDonald, who was 56, is survived by his widow, Irene, and two brothers: Charles, RKO home office theatre executive, and Irving, commentator for station WEEI, Boston. A sister, Mrs. J. J. McCarthy, Springfield, also survives. He was the former manager of the New York Hippodrome and Brooklyn Strand and had been associated with RKO and Fox Films.

Services will be held at St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield, tomorrow at 11 A.M.

Columbia's Sgt. Lobel Killed in Pacific

Sgt. Walter T. Lobel, 26, tail-gunner, Army Air Forces, and formerly of Columbia's exploitation staff, has been killed in action in the South Pacific theatre of war. He had previously been wounded and returned to action. Before going to Columbia, he had worked with Hal Roach, Republic and Consolidated Films.

J. S. Sullivan Passes

COLUMBUS, O., March 28.—J. Clarence Sullivan, 67, formerly a press represenative for the Lee M. Boda Theatres in Toledo, Dayton, Springfield, Columbus and Indianapolis, died suddenly at his home here of a heart ailment. With his wife, he operated the Emile Sullivan Studios here, specializing in theatrical costumes, having disposed of the business last November. Three daughters also survive.

John McCarthy Dies

TORONTO, March 28.—John C. McCarthy, 78, has died at Belleville, Ontario, where he owned the McCarthy Theatre. He had also built the Belle, Delaney and Trent Theatres in Ontario.

ITT to Coordinate Television, Radio

Formation of International Telecommunication Laboratories, Inc., having an initial capital investment of $2,000,000, is announced here by the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. Its purpose will be to coordinate more closely ITT's worldwide electronic research, including advancements in radio, television and related fields. Incorporated under the laws of Delaware, the new company will be located in Nutley, N. J.

E. M. Deloraine, scientist and general director of Federal Telephone and Radio Laboratories, an affiliate of ITT, is president of the new organization, which, it was announced, will be owned jointly by ITT and its English subsidiary, International Standard Electric Corp. Col. Sosthenes Behn, president of ITT, is chairman of the new company.

Legion Classifies 14 Additional Pictures

The Legion of Decency this week classified 14 additional films. In Class A-1 were: "The Bells of Rosarita," Republic; "The Cisco Kid Returns," Monogram; "Corpus Christi Bandits," "Gangs of the Waterfront" and "Road to Alcatraz," all Republic.

The Legion placed in Class A-II "Behind City Lights," Republic; "Brewster's Millions," United Artists; "Earl Carroll Vanities," Republic; "God Is My Co-Pilot," Warners; "Rough, Tough and Ready," Columbia and "Youth Aflame," Continental Pictures.

In Class B were: "The Corn Is Green," Warners; "A Royal Scandal," 20th Century-Fox and "Salty O'Rourke," Paramount.

Cuban Grosses Up 25%, Says Cobian

The 13 theatres of Cobian Circuit of Cuba, operated by Rames Cobian and Paramount, have increased gross receipts 25 per cent in the past three months, Cobian told MOTION PICTURE DAILY here recently. Cobian came for conferences with Leonard Goldenson, Paramount vice-president in charge of theatre operations; George Weltner, Paramount International vice-president, and Arthur Pratchett, Latin-American supervisor.

Cobian said that he plans to add another theatre in residential Havana, seating 2,500. In Puerto Rico, where he operates 22 theatres, the Paradise, the 23rd, is nearing completion.

ITT Account to Lyon

International Theatrical and Television Corp. and subsidiaries including Walter O. Gutlohn, Inc., Certified Film Distributors, Circle Film Laboratories and Film of the Month Club, Inc., has appointed S. Duane Lyon, Inc., as its advertising agency. William D'Arcy Cayton is account executive.

Jones Joins Guy Brown

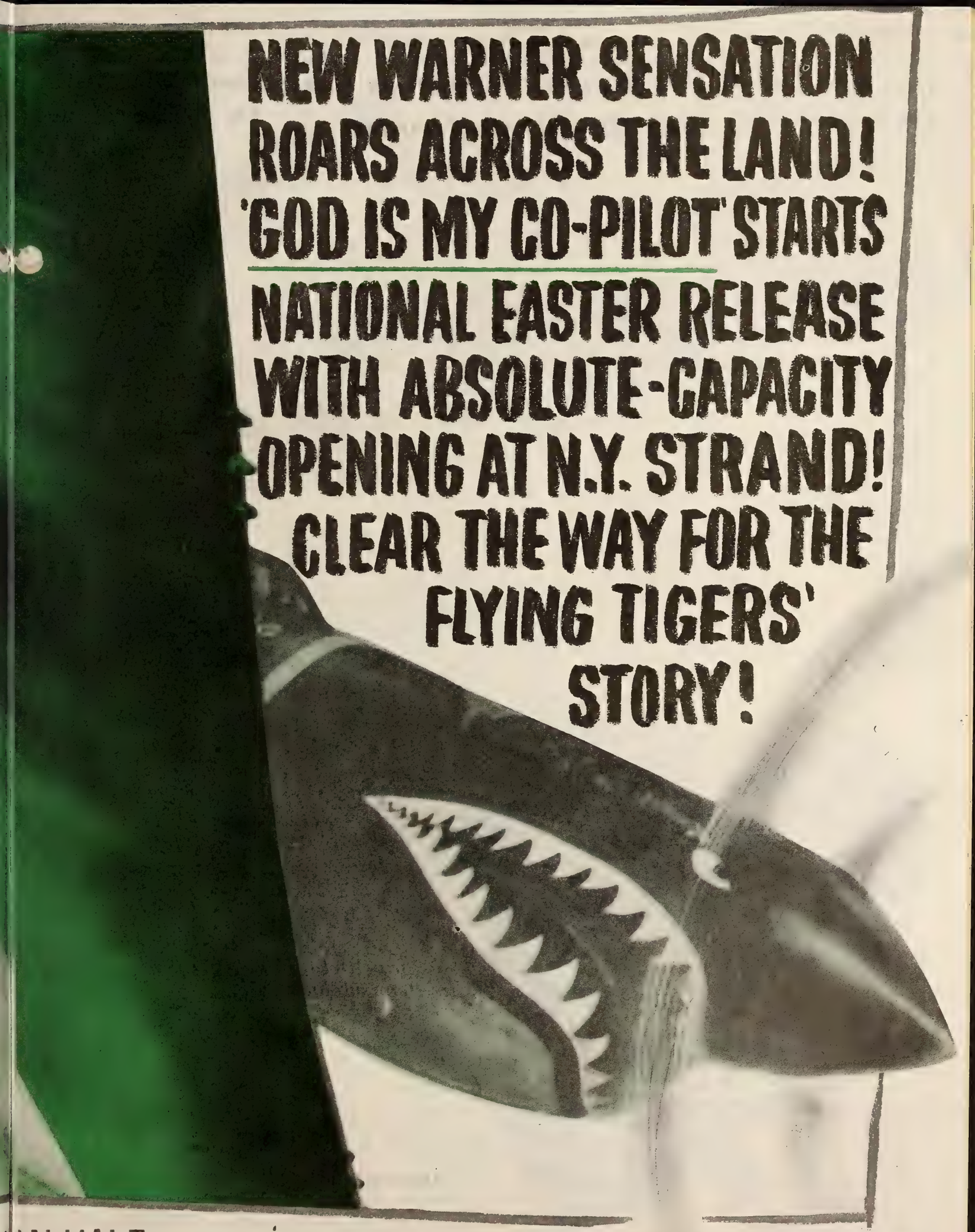
ATLANTA, March 28.—George M. Jones, who has been connected with film companies for 30 years, has severed his connections with Columbia Pictures, and will be associated with Guy Brown at the Motion Picture Advertising Co., with headquarters here.

Starring

DENNIS MORGAN · DANE CLARK · RAYMOND MASSEY A

Produced by ROBERT BUCKNER • From the Best Seller by that Ace Flying Tiger COL. ROBERT LEE SCOTT, J

NEW WARNER SENSATION ROARS ACROSS THE LAND! 'GOD IS MY CO-PILOT' STARTS NATIONAL EASTER RELEASE WITH ABSOLUTE-CAPACITY OPENING AT N.Y. STRAND! CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE FLYING TIGERS' STORY!



AN HALE • ANDREA KING • JOHN RIDGELY

ted by ROBERT FLOREY • Screen Play by Peter Milne and Abem Finkel • Music by Franz Waxman

Hays Hails Charter For Business Peace

(*Continued from page* 1)

has partially disabled Hollywood production for the past three weeks.

"The world peace for which we are so earnestly striving," Hays said, "grows from united effort and understanding and has its root in the (nation's) communities. There can be no lasting peace in the community unless neighbors live and act as friends. Nor can there be any unsolvable problems around a table where each is willing to recognize the fundamental American principle that the rights of men are equally sacred and sacredly equal."

The Agreement

The Murray-Green-Johnston charter pledges support of the right of labor to organize and bargain collectively and the right of management to direct the operations of an enterprise. It calls for a vastly increased foreign trade, aided by American help to devastated and undeveloped nations, and the establishment of an international security organization.

The charter was the result of prolonged conferences between the three organizations, with Ira Mosher, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, reportedly sitting in.

The Screen Office and Professional Employees Guild, in commenting on the charter here last night, declared its union backed the charter "100 per cent," and felt as a result of it, "labor problems need not occur in the future since the expansion of the industry rests on a stable and domestic economy."

Pre-Easter Business Lull Hits Broadway Grosses

(*Continued from page* 1)

marked by good weather throughout the country.

"Hotel Berlin" showed strength in inital weeks in Buffalo and two Denver theatres as a dual; in two Boston theatres; and in Philadelphia and Kansas City. It drew moderate business in initial weeks in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Cincinnati and continued profitably in second weeks in Baltimore and Minneapolis, and in three weeks in three Los Angeles theatres, to bring in a total of $226,-250, against a par of $212,100.

"A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" rolled up an outstanding $191,100 in reports from 12 theatres in 10 of the key cities on extended holdovers of second, third and fourth weeks, where par is $189,100. The only initial week reported on was in St. Louis as a dual where it led with a strong $4,300 above. It was still excellent in second weeks in Buffalo, Boston, Chicago; in third weeks in Baltimore and San Francisco, and in fourth weeks in three Los Angeles theatres and in moveovers in Pittsburgh, Denver and Cincinnati.

"Tonight and Every Night" brought a good $7,000 above par in a first week in Philadelphia; drew moderate business in an initial week in San Francisco and continued strong in second weeks in two Boston theatres. "Practically Yours" was a favorite in Denver for an initial week; drew moderate business in first weeks in St. Louis and in Omaha as a dual and continued profitable in a second week in Cleveland.

"The Three Caballeros" was a leader in three theatres in Los Angeles as a dual in a quiet week there, while it continued to draw moderate business in second weeks in San Francisco, and in Minneapolis as a dual, and in a third week in Chicago and a fifth week in Boston.

"This Man's Navy" showed strength in initial weeks in Baltimore and Kansas City. It drew average business in an initial week in Toronto and continued profitable in a second week in Philadelphia. "Frisco Sal" was profitable in an initial week in Boston with a stage show and in Cincinnati. It brought moderate receipts in initial weeks in Baltimore and Pittsburgh. "Objective Burma" scored just above par in a profitable initial week in Indianapolis; and moderate moveover and holdover weeks in Pittsburgh and San Francisco.

Films playing in three or more theatres reported upon and drawing good receipts were: "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "Roughly Speaking," "Here Come the Co-Eds," "Music for Millions" and "Thunderhead, Son of Flicka."

"It's a Pleasure" was good in an initial week in Chicago; "Keep Your Powder Dry" led in an initial week in Cincinnati, and "Pan Americana" with a stage show was big in an initial week in Cleveland.

Loew Voting Today On Stock-Split

(*Continued from page* 1)

which 5,055,327 would be outstanding, with the same par value.

Extended personal-service contracts for four executives: Nicholas M. Schenck, president, and Edgar J. Mannix, Alexander Lichtman and Benjamin Thau, vice-presidents, are also to be voted on. In each case the remuneration of the executives is to be increased to a maximum of $200,-000, with any sum above that amount going to the 'Employees Retirement Plan.'

The stockholders will also be asked to re-elect 10 board members; they are: Schenck, president; David Bernstein, vice-president and treasurer; Leopold Friedman, secretary and counsel; Eugene W. Leake, attorney; Charles C. Moskowitz, vice-president; William A. Parker, president of Incorporated Investors, Inc.; J. Robert Rubin, vice-president and counsel; Joseph R. Vogel, vice-president; David Warfield and Henry Rogers Winthrop.

Pre-Drive Efforts Started for 7th

(*Continued from page* 1)

Seventh War Loan headquarters in New York closer to the field.

Pinanski yesterday announced the division of the country by states over which each coordinator will have jurisdiction. The split-up follows:

Kinsky, (East, 12 states): Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts. New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, District of Columbia.

Thall, (West Coast, 11 states): Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

Wallerstein, (Midwest, 12 states): Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

Street, (South, 13 states): Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia.

112 Permits Now on File for Television

(*Continued from page* 1)

nine operating television stations active in New York, Schenectady, Philadelphia, Chicago and Los Angeles. Many additional applications are pending before the FCC for experimental television transmitters and relay stations.

Scripps-Howard Radio, Inc., a subsidiary of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers, has filed an application for permission to erect and operate a commercial television station in Cleveland; channel No. 2 is sought. Several months ago, Scripps-Howard filed an application for a video station in Washington.

Legislative Deluge Hits Pennsylvania

(*Continued from page* 1)

would know how to leave quickly in case of emergency. This was likewise referred to committee.

Another proposal, still in committee, concerns the reselling of theatre and amusement tickets, providing for State Police to license all brokers. Still another would prohibit children under 16 in amusement places after 10 P.M., unless accompanied by an adult.

2% Dunning Dividend

HOLLYWOOD, March 27.—Dunning Color Corp. has declared a two per cent dividend on its common, payable April 7 to stockholders of record on March 31.

Skouras, Rank to Resume Discussions

(*Continued from page* 1)

films in the U. S. Prior conferences by Skouras with the British film leader presumably were inconclusive, although 20th will distribute one of the Rank films, "The Way Ahead," presumably to satisfy British quota requirements.

Murray Silverstone, president of 20th International, is also reported leaving for England where he will join Skouras in the discussions.

Twentieth-Fox has announced a British production program to be done in conjunction with Marcel Hellman, British independent producer. This program may be one of the chief topics in the parleys, especially since the British Government has ordered a 50 per cent increase in the monetary quota provisions of the Films Act.

SPENCER TRACY
walks in his sleep!
KATHARINE HEPBURN
is the bashful bride!
"Without Love"
IS THEIR BIGGEST M-G-M HIT!

RECORD CROWDS AT RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL AS PREDICTED BY THE TRADE PRESS!

"... Heading for big and happy grosses ... production in Metro's very best style ..."
—MOTION PICTURE DAILY

"...Supremely entertaining...huge success ...everything favorable for top grosses..."
—FILM DAILY

"... Exhibitors will cheer, from the deluxer to the late run neighborhood house ..."
—BOXOFFICE

"... Headed for the higher brackets ..."
—EXHIBITOR

"... Long lines and extra ticket-punching activity at the box-office ..."
—SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIEW

"... The romantic team of 'Woman of the Year' has turned to comedy again which will be the best of news for exhibitors and their customers ... sure-fire ..."
—MOTION PICTURE HERALD

"... Topflight production ... a box-office click ..."
—VARIETY

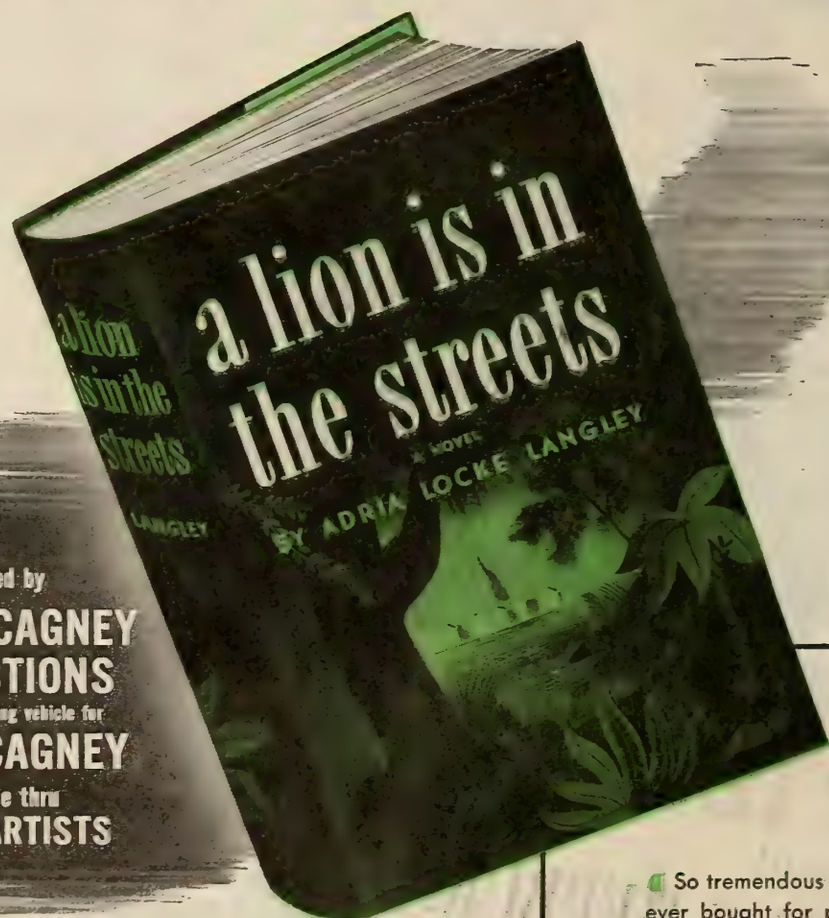
"... Headed for a box-office field day ..."
—HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP
MGM

Give To The Red Cross!

A PREVIEW OF THE NOVEL

that sold for the Highest Price* ever paid by a Producer!



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WILLIAM CAGNEY PRODUCTIONS
as the next starring vehicle for
JAMES CAGNEY
for release thru
UNITED ARTISTS

- So tremendous that it is the first novel ever bought for publication by one of America's leading non-fiction publishers!
- Two phenomenal advance printings totaling 100,000 copies!
- Ran serially in condensed form in the Saturday Evening Post!
- Official book publication by Whittlesey House, May 14, 1945!
- Watch the advertising campaign and sensational reviews in the book sections of all newspapers!

*Previous top-price novel, A. J. Cronin's "The Green Years"

First in Film and Radio News Brief, Accurate and Impartial

MOTION PICTURE DAILY

Alert, Intelligent and Indispensable to the Motion Picture Industry

VOL. 57. NO. 62 | NEW YORK, U.S.A., FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1945 | TEN CENTS

Approve Loew Split-Up of CommonStock

Over $7 Million for Six Months; Rename Officers

Loew's stockholders yesterday voted to split the present outstanding common stock on a ratio of three to one, effective April 9; re-elected the present board and approved four new personal service contracts for executives.

Following the stockholders' meeting the directors convened and re-elected all officers of the company. Officers are: Nicholas M. Schenck, president; David Bernstein, vice-president and treasurer; J. Robert Rubin, W. F. Rodgers, Edward A. Schiller, E. J. Mannix, Al Lichtman, Howard Dietz, C. C. Moskowitz, Joseph R. Vogel and Sam Katz, vice-presidents; Leopold Friedman, secretary; Charles K. Stern, Len Cohen, R. Lazarus and Louis K. Sidney, assistant treasurers; Jesse T. Mills, comptroller and assis-

(*Continued on page* 3)

Okla. Kills Bill on Admission Increase

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 29.—Oklahoma Legislature has killed a bill which would have forced theatre owners to bracket sales tax collections on tickets in such a way as to force admission prices up, but today it took up consideration of a bill to raise the sales tax from two to three per cent.

C. B. "Brownie" Akers, chairman of the legislative committee of the Theatre Owners of Oklahoma, Inc., said his group would not oppose the sales tax increase formally.

Rep. Arthur Reed, Poteau, Okla.,

(*Continued on page* 3)

Para. WB Stymied In South Africa

Paramount and Warners, who release in the South African territory through the Schlesinger Bros. theatre interests there, have not been able to reach an agreement on new distribution contracts with the Schlesingers, and, consequently, neither company's product has been exhibited there for

(*Continued on page* 11)

Carpenters in Jurisdictional Row with 'IA'

By MILTON LIVINGSTON

Demands of the Studio Carpenters Union and Joiners Local 946 of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, headed by William L. Hutcheson, for jurisdiction over carpentry work now performed by IATSE grips, property men, property builders, special effects workers and miniature set builders has created a far more important jurisdictional dispute than the one between IATSE property craftsmen Local 44 and Studio Set Decorators Local 1421, which led to the current three-week-old studio strike, Richard

(*Continued on page* 10)

NLRB Takes 'Bit' Players from SPU

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The National Labor Relations Board today revamped its certification of Dec. 30, naming Screen Players Union as the exclusive collective bargaining representative of all extras in 10 Hollywood studios to exclude the so-called "bits and parts" workers.

The Board's decision was based on a hearing held Feb. 22, at which the

(*Continued on page* 10)

London's Lady Yule To Seek U.S. Market

LONDON, March 29.—J. Arthur Rank is not alone among British notables contemplating an 'invasion' of the American film market. The 71-year-old Lady Annie Henrietta Yule has similar intentions.

Widow of Sir David Yule, reputedly in his life-time Britain's richest man, Lady Yule finances British National, production organization, whose new policy is: 'fewer but bigger' pictures, aimed at the U. S., with Louis H. Armstrong, executive producer, expected to head New Yorkward, soon, to discuss releasing channels.

Committee Votes Extension of OPA With Films Exempt

WASHINGTON, March 29.—A one-year extension of the Emergency Price Control Act, with no extension of OPA authority to motion picture admissions, has been decided upon by a special Senate banking and currency subcommittee, but final decision on both points has yet to be made by the full committee, it was disclosed today by chairman Robert F. Wagner of New York.

Action by the full committee will

(*Continued on page* 3)

State Chairmen for 7th Announced by Pinanski

OCR Flooded with Building Requests

Washington, March 29.—Flooded, in the wake of good war news, with requests for permission to build new theatres and for reconsideration of requests previously denied, the Office of Civilian Requirements declared through a spokesman here today: "The time is not yet ripe for any new construction. When it does come, the exhibitors will be notified promptly."

After V-E Day, however, it is expected that the OCR will permit a greater amount of repair and modernization.

Samuel Pinanski, national chairman of the Seventh War Loan of the industry, yesterday announced the complete roster of exhibitor state chairmen who have accepted appointment to serve in the Seventh War Loan Campaign, May 14 through June 30.

Meanwhile the industry has been assured of the cooperation of the American Legion in the Seventh Loan drive, as promised to Pinanski by H. L. Chaillaux, director of the National Americanism Commission of the Legion, which handles the promotional part of the Legion's war loan work in cooperation with the Treasury Department. Chaillaux assured Pinanski of the cooperation of all state and local Legion posts.

The complete roster of exhibitor

(*Continued on page* 11)

Will Contest New WPB Raw Stock Moves

Schaefer in Washington Today to Plead Case

An effort to induce the War Production Board to reinstate the full 50 per cent raw stock credit heretofore returned to distribution companies by the Army for prints furnished to the service will be made in Washington today by George J. Schaefer, liaison between the WPB and the industry raw stock advisory committee.

The raw stock credit to the companies from the Army recently was cut to 25 per cent by WPB, the other 25 per cent presumably having been earmarked for the new raw stock bank established for independent producers and commercial users. In addition, Schaefer will endeavor to obtain WPB approval for recovery of approximately 30,000,000 feet of raw stock with which the industry was not credited in the first quarter of this year when

(*Continued on page* 3)

Toledo Theatre Will Fight Film Refusal

COLUMBUS, March 29.—Jack O'Donnell, operator of the Loop Theatre, Toledo, who has been operating his theatre until 5 A.M. in violation of the Byrnes midnight curfew, and whose supply of films has been threatened by distributors unless he conforms to the curfew, today indicated that he would fight such a move through the courts under the terms of his film contracts.

O'Donnell's statement followed an

(*Continued on page* 3)

Film Classics Men To Fulfill Pacts

Film Classics has not received notice from any of its independent franchise holders of defection or intention not to handle Film Classics releases, a spokesman for the company said yesterday.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY reported Wednesday that some 20 independent exchange owners now associated with

(*Continued on page* 11)

Blumberg, Yates, Jr., Bromberg, Ginsberg, In Stock Changes

PHILADELPHIA, March 29.—The Securities and Exchange Commission disclosed tonight that Nathan J. Blumberg, president of Universal, has received 5,000 warrants for common stock from Universal Pictures, as compensation, increasing his holdings to 24,000.

The SEC monthly summary for February, just released, carried also belated reports on other transactions in Universal Pictures' securities, including the disposition by Daniel M. Sheaffer, director, Philadelphia, of 26,500 shares of common and 111,283 common warrants held through Standard Capital Co., when that organization was dissolved in December. Dissolution of Standard Capital also involved the distribution of 127 shares of common stock and 1,084 common warrants to Ottavio Prochet, director, Newport, R. I.

Exchanged in January

The Universal report showed that Sheaffer, in December, acquired 1,458 shares of stock and 4,607 warrants in the distribution of Standard Capital holdings and in January exchanged the warrants for stock, holding 24,265 shares at the end of the month. Prochet, in February, exchanged 73 warrants for stock, holding 200 shares at the close of the month, together with 1,011 warrants. William A. Scully reported sales of 5,100 warrants in February, leaving him with 9,000, together with 100 shares of stock.

A January report for Consolidated Film Industries showed the sale of 100 shares of part-preferred by Herbert J. Yates, Jr., leaving him with 3,082 shares.

The SEC reported the sale by Amerex Holding Corp., New York, of 4,000 shares of General Precision Equipment capital stock, held through the American Express Co.; at the close of month Amerex held 9,000 shares through the Express Company and 50,719 shares through Rexport Corp.

Loew's, Inc.

Loews, Inc., continued to pick up Loew's Boston Theatres common stock, acquiring 106 shares during February for a total of 121,341 shares.

In Monogram Pictures common, Altan A. Brody, director, Hollywood, reported the sale of 500 shares, reducing his holdings to 2,500 shares, and Arthur C. Bromberg, director, Atlanta, reported the sale of 3,900 shares held through Monogram Southern Exchanges, which held 15,172 shares at the end of the month; a January report for William B. Hurlbut, director, Detroit, showed the acquisition of 400 shares through Monogram Pictures of Michigan, which had a total of 2,000 shares.

A report on Paramount common showed the sale of 400 shares by Henry Ginsberg, Hollywood, leaving him with 1,000 shares, and the disposition of 50 shares by gift by Maurice Newton, director, New York, leaving him with 10,415 shares. A report on 20th Century-Fox showed the sale of 1,000 shares of common by Robert Lehman, director, New York, reducing his holdings to 500 shares.

Personal Mention

E. B. HATRICK, vice-president and general manager of News of the Day and Cosmopolitan Productions, will arrive in New York from the Coast Monday.

•

HENRY A. LINET, executive assistant to MAURICE BERGMAN, Universal Eastern advertising and publicity head, left New York last night on a tour of the New England territory.

•

JAMES E. FINEY, Walt Disney Productions domestic sales head, will leave New York Sunday for a one month tour of RKO exchanges.

•

EDDIE BONNS, United Artists Southern publicity director, is back at work in Atlanta, after several months of illness.

•

WILLIAM RICHARDSON, Astor Pictures president in the Southeast, has returned to Atlanta from a Florida trip.

•

HARRY LAMONT, Northern New York theatre operator, has returned to Albany from Florida.

•

MURIEL BABCOCK, Ideal Women's Group editorial director, has left for the Coast.

•

TERRY TURNER, RKO exploitation head, will return to New York from Boston today.

•

NATE PLATT of B & K has returned to Chicago from a trip to Florida.

•

GEORGE P. SKOURAS plans a Coast trip early in April.

BEN KALMENSON, Warner general sales manager, will leave for Chicago Monday.

•

LT. BOLIVAR HYDE, formerly of Florida State Theatres, now of the Navy Motion Picture Service, Washington, has been in New York for several days on Navy film business.

•

CHARLES CHARLES, Ross Federal Service Albany branch manager, is recovering in Miami from a heart attack. He is expected back in Albany in late Spring.

•

CHARLES REAGAN, vice-president in charge of Paramount sales, is another executive returning to his office Monday.

•

GEORGE THORNTON, operator of the Orpheum, Saugerties, N. Y., is the father of his fourth child, a daughter.

•

E. L. MCEVOY, Universal short subjects sales manager, will be in Washington today from New York.

•

GEORGE F. DEMBOW, vice-president of National Screen, is due from Florida Monday.

•

RALPH B. AUSTRIAN is eyeing Hollywood. Departure date is early in May.

•

SID BLUMENSTOCK of 20th Century-Fox was in Chicago this week.

•

SAM WOOD has arrived in New York from the Coast.

•

JAMES R. GRAINGER, Republic president, returns from California Monday.

Goldwyn's 'Wonder Man' to Astor Next

Samuel Goldwyn's "The Wonder Man," starring Danny Kaye, is scheduled to open at the Astor on Broadway, May 15. Goldwyn's current entry at the Astor, "The Princess and the Pirate," is expected to continue until that date. The two Goldwyn pictures are the only ones which have been dated for the Astor since Goldwyn and David O. Selznick concluded their joint deal for the houses's playing time in February.

Eastman All Ready For a Civilian Shift

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 29.—Eastman Kodak is ready for a fast shift to civilian production here as soon as war requirements have been filled, according to a report to stockholders.

The report reveals that the number of Eastman employes here, until now a military secret, has reached 29,000. There are 42,000 in all of the U. S. and Canada.

Buying Combination To Do Business Here

ALBANY, N. Y., March 29.—Independent Theatre Service, Inc., of Elizabeth, N. J., has filed a statement here authorizing it to do business in New York State. The company is the recently formed buying combination of approximately 60 New Jersey theatres, with Lee W. Newbury as president. Capital stock is $10,000 with $10 par value. Monroe E. Stein is the New York attorney of record.

'Dillinger' Is Banned By Memphis Censor

MEMPHIS, March 29.—"The Life of John Dillinger" has been banned here by Lloyd Binford, chairman of the board of censors. Binford told Bailey Prichard, Monogram branch manager, that "showing of the picture would not be of benefit to the public." The film had been scheduled for the Warner Theatre. Comment was refused by Howard Waugh, Warner zone manager.

Lou Klein Promoted

Lou Klein, formerly manager of the Luxor Theatre of J. J. Theatres has been promoted to Bronx zone manager, replacing Clem Perry, resigned.

O'Brien, Editor of 'U' Newsreel, Dies

Joseph O'Brien, 45, editor of Universal Newsreel, died yesterday at the Harkness Pavillion after a lengthy illness.

O'Brien participated in early experiments with color films and worked on war pictures for the Government during World War I. He joined Pathe News in 1927 as make-up editor after having been cameraman and film editor with Kinograms, and later worked for Fox Movietone News before joining Universal in 1932. He was appointed editor in 1938. With Universal, O'Brien also produced the short series, "Person Oddities" and "Variety Views."

His widow, Helen, survives. Funeral arrangments will be announced later.

Murray Loses Again In Thalia Trust Suit

CHICAGO, March 29. — Plaintiff Thomas A. Murray, former owner of the Thalia Theatre, lost another count in his anti-trust suit against distributors when Federal Judge William H. Holly this morning refused to vacate his orders of last month which called for the dismissal of the remaining distributors, Loew's and 20th Century-Fox, and the granting of a new trial for the other defendants.

Lester Murray, attorney and son of the plaintiff, said that he will appeal to the Circuit Court of Appeals on the ground that the judge had no right to vacate those orders.

On Jan. 24, a jury awarded Murray $105,000 in damages against eight defendants.

Schaefer Names Ad Agency for 'GI Joe'

George J. Schaefer, chairman of the board of Lester Cowan Productions, in charge of world wide distribution, has appointed Ruthrauff and Ryan, Inc. as the advertising agency for Cowan's forthcoming United Artists' release, "Story of G. I. Joe." Space to be taken in the newspaper advertising campaign on the picture will be 50 per cent above normal, it was said. In those papers where space is limited due to newsprint shortage the maximum space allowed will be taken.

Services for Mrs. McFaul

BUFFALO, March 29.—Funeral services for Mrs. Alice M. McFaul, 57, will be held Saturday at St. Joseph's New Cathedral.

Apparantly on the road to recovery after an operation, Mrs. McFaul died suddenly Wednesday after suffering a relapse. She was the wife of Vincent R. McFaul, president of Buffalo Theatres, Inc., operating the Shea theatres here.

Starr Leaves 20th-Fox

HOLLYWOOD, March 29.—Producer Irving Starr's contract with 20th Century-Fox has been terminated amicably after a year with the studio. His last picture was "Something for the Boys." Starr has announced no future plans as yet.

MOTION PICTURE DAILY, Martin Quigley, President and Editor-in-Chief; Colvin Brown, Publisher; Sherwin Kane, Editor. Published daily except Saturday, Sunday, and holidays by Quigley Publishing Company, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, New York, 20, N. Y. Telephone CIrcle 7-3100. Cable address, "Quigpubco, New York." Martin Quigley, President; Colvin Brown, Vice-President; Red Kann, Vice-President; Theo Sullivan, Secretary; Sherwin Kane, Editor; James P. Cunningham, News Editor; Herbert V. Fecke, Advertising Manager; Chicago Bureau, 624 South Michigan Ave., Hollywood Bureau, Postal Union Life Bldg., William R. Weaver, Editor; London Bureau, 4 Golden Sq., London W1, Hope Burnup, Manager; Peter Burnup, Editor; cable address, "Quigpubco, London." All contents copyrighted 1945 by Quigley Publishing Co., Inc. Other Quigley Publications: Motion Picture Herald, Better Theatres, International Motion Picture Almanac, Fame. Entered as second class matter, Sept. 23, 1938, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rates per year, $6 in the Americas and $12 foreign; single copies, 10.

Toledo Theatre Will Fight Film Refusal

(Continued from page 1)

announcement from John L. Craig of the State War Manpower Commission that he had received word from RKO, 20th Century-Fox, Warner Bros. and M-G-M home offices that they would instruct their branches to refuse to release film to the Loop unless O'Donnell agrees not to show their product after midnight, and that Warner product will not be available for showing at the Loop at any hour until O'Donnell fully complies with the curfew.

Safety Award to MGM

For the second consecutive year, a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer short has won the National Safety Council's award offered annually to the film contributing most to public safety during the year. The award, made by a committee representing 17 national organizations, went to Pete Smith's Specialty, "Safety Sleuth."

Loew's Stockholders Vote For Split-Up of Common

(Continued from page 1)

tant secretary, and Ben Thau, assistant secretary.

Bernstein informed the meeting that Loew's earnings for the six months ended March 1 would be approximately the same as for the corresponding period a year ago when, in a 28-week period ended March 16, 1944, net profit amounted to $7,442,698, equivalent to $4.44 per share.

The new personal service contracts approved were for Schenck, Mannix, Lichtman and Thau. Details of the contracts were published in MOTION PICTURE DAILY on Feb. 23. It was disclosed at the meeting that existing contracts with Bernstein and Rubin have been extended for three years by the exercise of options previously approved by stockholders.

The change in the company's common stock will increase the authorized shares from the present 4,000,000 to 6,000,000 shares, and for each of the 1,685,109 shares presently outstanding, two additional shares will be issued, making 5,055,327 shares outstanding, the par value of which will remain the same, namely, $44,609,050.

Directors reelected were: Schenck, Bernstein, Friedman, Eugene W. Leake, Moskowitz, William A. Parker, Rubin, Vogel, David Warfield and Henry Rogers Winthrop.

York Theatre Burns

ATLANTA, March 29.—York Theater, Red Boiling Springs, Tenn. was destroyed by fire.

Will Contest New WPB Raw Stock Moves

(Continued from page 1)

raw stock repayments from the Army were placed on a current, instead of the former 90-day, basis.

Feature prints supplied to the Army are returned to exchanges after 1,000 screenings. Companies receive full credit for prints supplied to the Navy, however, which uses such prints indefinitely and pays a small fee per linear foot for all prints ordered.

Schaefer also will discuss with Stanley Adams, head of the Consumers Durable Goods Division of WPB, the prospect of the War Activities Committee purchasing approximately 3,000,000 feet of positive recently reported on Army surplus lists. Another 12,000,000 feet of Army surplus film reported at the same time has been identified since as negative, of which there is no particular shortage. WAC would use the positive to supplement its raw stock allocation from the Office of War Information, if the purchase is approved.

Will Invite Views

WPB's proposal that ration controls be eliminated for commercial raw stock users, after Army, Navy, Government and foreign allocations have been supplied, which was described in MOTION PICTURE DAILY last Monday, is still under consideration in Washington. Communications inviting the views of industry representatives on the proposal are in preparation. The possibility of WPB, by such means, throwing all raw stock available for commercial users into one pool and leaving it to individual users to obtain what each could from Eastman and DuPont, is understood to have caused several members of the industry advisory committee who have been entertaining the thought of resigning, to think twice about it. Any widespread resignations probably would have the effect of hastening WPB's withdrawal from the commercial raw stock rationing picture, it is pointed out in some industry quarters, where it is believed such action would result in a less orderly raw stock quota situation than ever.

McCormick to Plan Promotions for 7

S. Barret McCormick, director of advertising-publicity for RKO Radio, will leave today for Hollywood.

Having already set national campaigns on "The Enchanted Cottage," "China Sky," and other forthcoming releases, McCormick will next discuss advertising plans with studio executives for "The Spanish Main," "George White's Scandals of 1945," "Johnny Angel," "Those Endearing Young Charms," and "Bells of St. Mary's." McCormick will also meet with Leo Spitz and William Goetz on promotion plans for International's "Along Came Jones"; with Samuel Goldwyn on "Wonder Man," and with Walt Disney.

Before leaving here, McCormick stated that all phases of RKO Radio advertising have been materially increased during the year.

Okla. Kills Bill on Admission Increase

(Continued from page 1)

said he would re-introduce his tax bracketing measure if the additional sales tax passes. Akers said his committee would not oppose it because the overwhelming majority of Oklahoma business men would prefer penny bracketing rather than an attempt to collect three per cent on sales under 33 cents.

Committee Votes Extension of OPA

(Continued from page 1)

be deferred, Wagner said, until the subcommittee has submitted a report now in course of preparation.

Since Wagner is chairman of both the committee and the subcommittee. The action of the latter in rejecting Price Administrator Chester A. Bowles' plea for authority to regulate theatre admissions is expected to be confirmed.

NBC Promotes Shawn

Fred Shawn, program manager of station WRC, Washington, has been named administrative assistant to Clarence L. Menser, NBC vice-president in charge of programs in New York. He will take over his new post on April 9.

Jones to Buchanan

Martin B. Jones, Jr., has been named radio director of Buchanan and Co., here. Until recently, Jones was chief for the Red Cross in the European and African theatres of war and before that he was a radio producer of NBC's public service division and with NBC television.

Court Upholds Moss

Supreme Court Justice Church yesterday upheld License Commissioner Paul Moss of New York City in his refusal to allow McBride's Theatre Ticket Agency to charge 50 cents for ticket deliveries over the 75-cent brokerage fee allowed by the business law.

Goldman Sells Skirball

CLEVELAND, March 29.—Mark Goldman, PRC branch manager, has closed an all-product deal with the Skirball Circuit.

NEW YORK THEATRES

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
50th St. and 6th Ave.
Spencer TRACY Katharine HEPBURN
"WITHOUT LOVE"
LUCILLE BALL
A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURE &
The Music Hall's Great Easter Stage Show

STATE
ON SCREEN IN TECHNICOLOR 'A SONG TO REMEMBER' PAUL MUNI · MERLE OBERON
IN PERSON ENOCH LIGHT and ORCH.

Paramount Presents
Claudette COLBERT Fred MacMURRAY
in "PRACTICALLY YOURS"
in Person
Benny GOODMAN and Orchestra
CONDOS BROS.
BOB EVANS with Jerry O'Leary
PARAMOUNT Times Square

RKO PALACE B'WAY & 47th St.
Randolf Scott Gypsy Rose Lee
Dinah Shore Bob Burns
'BELLE of the YUKON'
AN RKO RADIO PICTURE

SAMUEL GOLDWYN Presents
BOB HOPE
'THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE'
in Technicolor
ASTOR
Continuous Doors open 8:30 A.M.
Broadway & 45th Street
Popular Prices

WALT DISNEY'S
'The THREE CABALLEROS'
in TECHNICOLOR
Released by RKO Radio Pictures
NOW - - - Brandt's GLOBE

The Most Beautiful Girls in the World in the Year's Biggest Musical!
DENNIS O'KEEFE
CONSTANCE MOORE
Earl Carroll Vanities
with
EVE ARDEN Alan Mowbray
Otto Kruger Stephanie Bachelor
and
WOODY HERMAN and his ORCHESTRA
A Republic Picture
Republic Theatre
B'way Bet. 51st & 52nd Sts.

BETTY SMITH'S
A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN
A 20th CENTURY-FOX PICTURE
ROXY ON STAGE! A GAY, SPRINGTIME REVUE
7th Ave. & 50th St.

MARY O'HARA'S
"THUNDERHEAD"
in Technicolor
A 20th Century-Fox Picture
Doors open 6:30 A.M.
VICTORIA
Broadway & 46th St.

Joan Fontaine George Brent
IN HAL WALLIS' PRODUCTION
"The Affairs of Susan"
A Paramount Picture
RIVOLI
B'WAY AND 49TH ST.

RKO SHOWMANSH

Entire Trade Press Senses Extra Gr
Special Exposing Jap Spy Secrets!

BETRAY
from the EAST

GET CREDIT FOR YOUR RED CROSS COLLECTION.
SEND YOUR REPORT TO YOUR AREA CHAIRMAN.

HP CLICKS AGAIN!

's Possibilities in New Exploitation

. . . . . and presenting **DREW PEARSON**

that famous and fearless newspaper columnist and radio commentator!

"This potent melodrama of Jap espionage in U. S. will jar fans out of complacency. Authenticity is imparted by Drew Pearson." —*Film Daily*

"Powerful, well-paced drama of Jap treachery...Will hold its own...Forceful, suspenseful and believable." —*Motion Picture Daily*

"A rugged and hard-hitting espionage picture. Easily takes rank as a topline production in its field." —*Hollywood Reporter*

"Swift, turbulent and exciting melodrama of Jap espionage. Calculated to fire audiences against the race which planned war against the U. S." —*Hollywood Variety*

"Drew Pearson's introduction...gives a sobering air of authenticity. Good melodrama with satisfactory suspense." —*Motion Picture Herald*

"Moving at a neat pace, and with good performances, it is a good entry for the top half or as a single where exploitation can pull it through." —*The Exhibitor*

"Exploitable...timely and intensely melodramatic...Should do good business generally and clean up in action spots!" —*Film Bulletin*

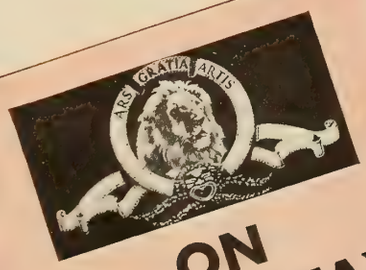
LEE TRACY
NANCY KELLY
in

BETRAYAL FROM THE EAST

with **RICHARD LOO**
REGIS TOOMEY

roduced by HERMAN SCHLOM · *Directed by* WILLIAM BERKE · Screen Play by KENNETH GAMET and AUBREY WISBERG

WHEREVER IT'S



ON BROADWAY AND ON EVERY MAIN STREET OF AMERICA LEO TOPS 'EM ALL!

★

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

"WITHOUT LOVE"

★

SPENCER TRACY KATHARINE HEPBURN

Packing 'em in for a long run!

LOEW'S CRITERION

"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN"

★

That Man

VAN JOHNSON!

That's all you need to know!

YOU LOOK M·G·M!

LOEW'S STATE

JUST COMPLETED 3 WEEKS!
FIRST TIME IN HISTORY!

"MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS"

★

JUDY GARLAND
MARGARET O'BRIEN

in the Goldmine Hit of the Year!

CAPITOL

"THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY"

★

5 Great Weeks!
It's unique and the fans are flocking to see it!

GLOBE

"THIS MAN'S NAVY"

★

WALLACE BEERY

It's another "Salute to the Marines!"

21st YEAR OF LEADERSHIP MGM

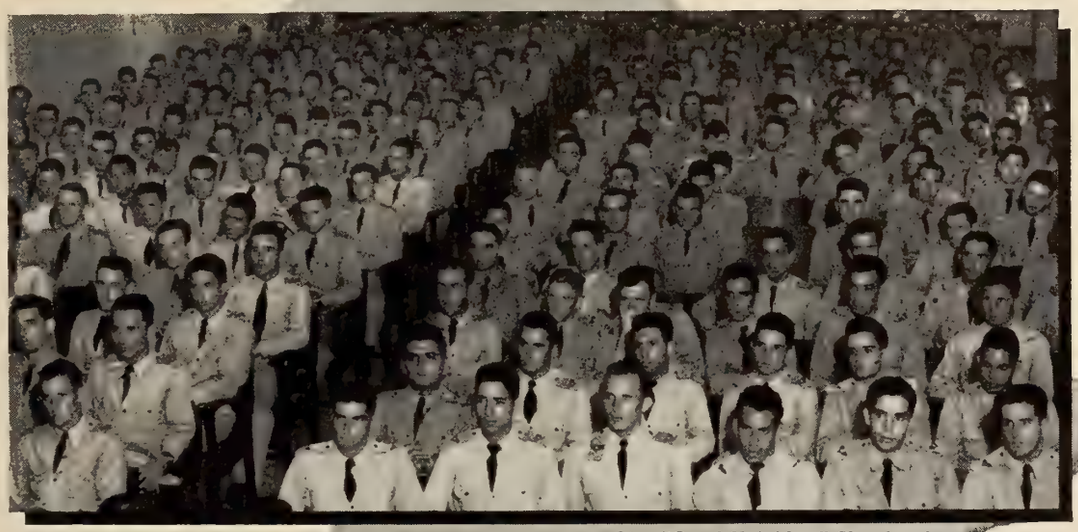
Give To The Red Cross!

MOTION PICTURE DAILY'S BOOKING CHART

WEEK OF	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONO.	PARA.	PRC	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	U. A.	UNIVERSAL	WARNERS
Mar. 3	A SONG TO REMEMBER (Color) Paul Muni Merle Oberon Cornel Wilde D—113 mins. (Rev. 1/18/45)	(Tenth Block) MAIN STREET AFTER DARK Edward Arnold Selena Royle D—56 mins. (514) (Rev. 11/28/44)		(Third Block) HERE COME THE WAVES Bing Crosby Betty Hutton Sonny Tufts M—97 mins. (4411) (Rev. 12/18/44)		SHERIFF OF CIMARRON Sunset Carson Linda Stirling O—55 mins. (454) (Rev. 2/7/45)	(Special Release) BELLE OF THE YUKON (International) (Color) Randolph Scott Gypsy Rose Lee Dinah Shore C—84 mins. (583) (Rev. 11/29/44)	(Feb. Release) (Special Release) A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN Dorothy McGuire Joan Blondell James Dunn Peggy Ann Garner D—128 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/24/45)		FRISCO SAL Susanna Foster Turhan Bey M—94 mins. (9012) (Rev. 2/16/45)	
Mar. 10	THE CRIME DOCTOR'S COURAGE Warner Baxter D—70 mins. (Rev. 3/8/45)	MUSIC FOR MILLIONS Margaret O'Brien Jose Iturbi M—117 mins. (515) (Rev. 12/13/44)		DANGEROUS PASSAGE Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4412) (Rev. 12/21/44)	THE MAN WHO WALKED ALONE Dave O'Brien Kay Aldridge O—74 mins. (Rev. 2/2/45)			HANGOVER SQUARE Laird Cregar Linda Darnell George Sanders D—77 mins. (516) (Rev. 1/17/45)		SUDAN (Color) Maria Montez Jon Hall Turhan Bey D—76 mins. (9006) (Rev. 3/1/45)	ROUGHLY SPEAKING Rosalind Russell Jack Carson D—117 mins. (412) (Rev. 1/26/45)
Mar. 17	A GUY, A GAL AND A PAL Ross Hunter Lynn Merrick D (Rev. 3/16/45)	BLONDE FEVER Philip Dorn Mary Astor C—69 mins. (516) (Rev. 11/28/44)	GI HONEY-MOON Gale Storm Peter Cookson D—70 mins. (406) (Rev. 3/1/45)	FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS (Color) Ingrid Bergman Gary Cooper D—158 mins. (4413) (Rev. 7/15/43)		UTAH Roy Rogers George (Gabby) Hayes Dale Evans M—78 mins. (441) (Rev. 3/12/45)	(Special Release) THE THREE CABALLEROS (Disney) (Color) M—71 mins. (591) (Rev. 12/12/44)				
Mar. 24	ROUGH RIDIN' JUSTICE Chas. Starrett Betty Jane Graham (Rev. 3/20/45)	THIS MAN'S NAVY Wallace Beery James Gleason D—100 mins. (517) (Rev. 1/4/45)	DOCKS OF NEW YORK East Side Kids C—62 mins. (410) (Rev. 2/21/45)	PRACTICALLY YOURS Claudette Colbert Fred MacMurray C—90 mins. (4414) (Rev. 12/15/44)		THE GREAT FLAMARION Eric von Stroheim Mary Beth Hughes D—78 mins. (412) (Rev. 1/23/45)	(Third Block) WHAT A BLONDE Leon Errol Elaine Riley C—71 mins. (511) (Rev. 1/29/45)	THUNDERHEAD SON OF FLICKA Roddy McDowall Preston Foster O—78 mins. (518) (Rev. 2/1/45)		THE HOUSE OF FEAR Basil Rathbone Nigel Bruce D—69 mins. (9025) (Rev. 3/20/45)	HOTEL BERLIN Faye Emerson Helmut Dantine Raymond Massey D—98 mins. (413) (Rev. 3/2/45)
Mar. 31	ROUGH, TOUGH AND READY Victor McLaglen Chester Morris D—66 mins.	BETWEEN TWO WOMEN Van Johnson Lionel Barrymore D—81 mins. (518) (Rev. 12/21/44)		DOUBLE EXPOSURE Chester Morris Nancy Kelly D—63 mins. (4415) (Rev. 12/21/44)	STRANGE ILLUSION Jimmy Lydon Warren William D—87 mins. (Rev. 2/21/45)	IDENTITY UNKNOWN Richard Arlen Cheryl Walker D—71 mins. (414)	THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE Dorothy McGuire Robert Young Herbert Marshall D—92 mins. (515) (Rev. 2/14/45)	CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE Lloyd Nolan Michael O'Shea Trudy Marshall D—67 mins. (519) (Rev. 2/15/45)	DELIGHTFULLY DANGEROUS (Chas. R. Rogers) Jane Powell Ralph Bellamy M—93 mins. (Rev. 2/26/45)		
April 6	ESCAPE IN THE FOG Otto Kruger Nina Foch D	NOTHING BUT TROUBLE Laurel and Hardy C—69 mins. (519) (Rev. 12/5/44)	THERE GOES KELLY Jackie Moran Wanda McKay C—61 mins. (422) (Rev. 3/8/45)		CRIME, INC. Leo Carrillo Tom Neal D (Rev. 2/7/45)		HAVING WONDERFUL CRIME George Murphy Pat O'Brien Carole Landis C—70 mins. (514) (Rev. 2/16/45)		BREWSTER'S MILLIONS (Edward Small) Dennis O'Keefe Helen Walker C—78 mins. (Rev. 3/12/45)		GOD IS MY CO-PILOT Dennis Morgan Andrea King D—89 mins. (414) (Rev. 2/21/45)
April 13	ROCKING IN THE ROCKIES Three Stooges Mary Beth Hughes O	KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY Lana Turner Laraine Day D—123 mins. (520) (Rev. 2/15/45)	FASHION MODEL Robert Lowery Marjorie Weaver C—61 mins. (423)	(Fourth Block) BRING ON THE GIRLS (Color) Veronica Lake Sonny Tufts Eddie Bracken M—92 mins. (4416) (Rev. 2/19/45)	SHADOWS OF DEATH Buster Crabbe O (Rev. 1/25/44)		PAN-AMERICANA Phillip Terry Audrey Long Robert Benchley D—84 mins. (513) (Rev. 2/21/45)	(Special Release) THE SONG OF BERNADETTE Jennifer Jones Charles Bickford D—156 mins. (520) (Rev. 12/22/43)		I'LL REMEMBER APRIL Gloria Jean Kirby Grant M—64 mins.	
April 20	EVE KNEW HER APPLES Ann Miller William Wright		CRAZY KNIGHTS Billy Gilbert Maxie Rosenbloom C—63 mins. (421) (Rev. 1/15/45)	THE UNSEEN Joel McCrea Gail Russell Herbert Marshall D—81 mins. (4417) (Rev. 2/20/45)	HOLLYWOOD AND VINE James Ellison Wanda McKay C—58 mins. (Rev. 3/8/45)		BETRAYAL FROM THE EAST Lee Tracy Nancy Kelly D—82 mins. (512) (Rev. 2/19/45)	A ROYAL SCANDAL Tallulah Bankhead Anne Baxter William Eythe D—94 mins. (521) (Rev. 3/21/45)	IT'S IN THE BAG (Jack H. Skirball) Fred Allen Jack Benny C—87 mins. (Rev. 2/9/45)	SONG OF THE SARONG William Gargan Nancy Kelly C—65 mins.	
April 27	THE POWER OF THE WHISTLER Richard Dix Janis Carter D RETURN OF THE DURANGO KID Charles Starrett Tex Harding O COUNTER-ATTACK Paul Muni Marguerite Chapman D		CISCO KID RETURNS Duncan Renaldo O—64 mins. (429)	SALTY O'ROURKE Alan Ladd Gail Russell D—100 mins. (4418) (Rev. 2/23/45)	THE PHANTOM OF 42nd STREET Dave O'Brien Kay Aldrich D		(Special Release) THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW Edward Robinson Joan Bennett D—99 mins. (582) (Rev. 10/10/44)	MOLLY AND ME Gracie Fields Monty Woolley Roddy McDowall C—76 mins. (522) (Rev. 3/8/45)		SALOME—WHERE SHE DANCED (Walter Wanger) (Color) Yvonne de Carlo David Bruce M	THE HORN BLOWS AT MIDNIGHT Jack Benny C
May 4	YOU CAN'T DO WITHOUT LOVE Vera Lynn Donald Stewart M			HIGH POWERED Robert Lowery Phyllis Brooks D—62 mins. (4419) (Rev. 2/21/45)	ENEMY OF THE LAW Dave O'Brien Tex Ritter O—59 mins. (Rev. 3/9/45)		(Special Release) IT'S A PLEASURE International (Color) Sonja Henie Michael O'Shea 90 mins (584) (Rev. 2/27/45)		COLONEL BLIMP (British Rank-Arthur) (Color) Anton Walbrook Deborah Kerr D—148 mins. Rev. 6/9/43)	PATRICK THE GREAT Donald O'Connor Peggy Ryan C—89 mins.	
May 11	THE FIGHTING GUARDSMAN Willard Parker Anita Louise D				THE LADY CONFESSES Mary Beth Hughes Hugh Beaumont D						

Dates Are Based on National Release Schedules and Are Subject to Change. Letters Denote the Following: (D) Dram
(M) Musical (C) Comedy (O) Outdoor Action. Production Numbers Are in Parentheses (Rev.) Motion Picture Daily Review Date

We get to know each other better at the movies...



At a "Good-Neighbor" film showing

THE indispensable first step in getting along with a neighbor . . . across the fence or across an international boundary line . . . is to get to know each other better.

The movies are doing a lot to help the Latin Americans to know us better, and more and more films from below the Rio Grande are coming this way to help us know them better. It works both ways.

For our country's part, feature pictures, short subjects, newsreels, industrial films, agricultural films, health films . . . in English, Spanish, Portuguese . . . all are helping our neighbors to see us as we really are. At the movies, they are learning something of our culture, our history, our daily lives . . .

And in wartime, growing good will among all the American peoples has taken on new importance.

Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y.

J. E. BRULATOUR, INC., *Distributors*
FORT LEE CHICAGO HOLLYWOOD

One of a series of advertisements by KODAK testifying to the achievements of the movies at war

SPU Bids Senate Investigate NLRB

HOLLYWOOD, March 29.—The National Labor Relations Board's decision revising its certification of the Screen Players' Union and awarding to the Screen Actors' Guild jurisdiction over players performing bits, stunts, or singing, which jurisdiction originally had been given to the SPU, will be "combatted with all possible vigor," Mike Jeffers, SPU executive representative, said today.

The first step, Jeffers said, will be the filing of an appeal with the Senate Judiciary Committee for a complete investigation of the NLRB in Washington and the NLRB in Los Angeles, to determine "how pressure was brought to bear on those boards that can be permitted to sabotage the Government's labor policy and agencies."

SAG Statement

The Screen Actors Guild issued a statement that "this decision constitutes full recognition of SAG's contention made before the NLRB at the Feb. 22 re-hearing: that the jurisdictional overlap created by the Board's original decision and the certification of SPU should be modified to give SAG exculsive jurisdiction over all acting work."

A statement issued by the producers said: "We repeat what we have always said—We will abide by whatever decision the NLRB hands down. This applies not only to the controversy over extras, but also to the jurisdictional dispute over set decorators."

Carpenters' Union in Row With '1A' on Jurisdiction

(*Continued from page* 1)

F. Walsh, IATSE international president, told MOTION PICTURE DAILY yesterday.

Walsh conferred with Hutcheson yesterday and reported that little progress was made. He declared that the IATSE will never yield jurisdiction over the carpentry work to the Carpenters Union.

Walsh expressed little concern over the continuance of the studio strike, pointing out that the IATSE studio workers are continuing to perform their jobs and helping the producers to turn out pictures. He contended that if it weren't for the demands of the carpenters, the studio strike could be settled immediately, since Conference of Studio Unions president Herbert K. Sorrell has expressed a willingness to abide by a decision of the National Labor Relations Board in the jurisdictional dispute between IATSE Local 44 and Studio Set Decorators Local 1421. Briefs are due to be filed tomorrow and the NLRB will then undertake to render a decision as to what constitutes the proper barganing unit in the property department. Walsh said that IATSE will abide by the results of the NLRB election once it is conducted. He admitted that the producers were in the midst of the jurisdictional row and predicted that if the Conference units continued their strike the IATSE might wind up by having jurisdiction over all workers in the studios.

Walsh and Hutcheson continued their conferences here last night. Questioned about the action by some members of IATSE Local 44 in adopting a resolution against performing other than their own work despite Walsh's order, Walsh said that he has ordered an investigation of the move and punitive action will be taken if the situation demands it. He pointed out that despite their threats, the workers were performing their assigned tasks.

Walsh said that he has remained in touch with the Hollywood situation by telephone. He estimated that no more than 5,000 workers are out on strike. C. B. 'Cappy' Du Val, business representative of Local 44 was present with Walsh at yesterday's conferences with Hutcheson.

Sorrell Sharpens Terms; Settlement Hopes Fade

HOLLYWOOD, March 29.—The Conference of Studio Unions today sharpened the terms on which it is willing to settle the strike here and IATSE executives said peace is more remote than ever, as picketing at the major studios continued toward the end of the third week. CSU's action followed receipt of the National Labor Relations Board's decision in the Screen Players Union's dispute with the Screen Actors Guild. SPU members, although not affiliated with CSU, have observed the picket lines.

Following a meeting of his strike strategy committee, CSU president Herbert Sorrell stated: "Since witnessing the ease with which the producers manipulated SPU out of the NLRB decision, we have decided not to go back to work until a contract is completed for the set decorators. It is entirely up to the producers whether they wait for the NLRB to make a decision or not."

Drop 'Interim' Limitation

CSU's original demand was for the producers to recognize Local 1421 as the agency for the decorators during the interim between the War Labor Board arbitrator's decision and the outcome of the appeal of the producers and IATSE to NLRB. Today's declaration is tantamount to cancellation of the "interim" limitation.

At a late hour the producers had not commented on Sorrell's statement CSU executives said no communication had been received regarding the Walsh-Hutcheson-Casey conferences in New York but were confident the "strike will be settled in Hollywood —not New York." IATSE's Roy Brewer said his reports from Walsh up to late today gave little ground for expectation that the strike would terminate soon.

Jock Whitney Decorated

Colonel John Hay Whitney, former director of the motion picture division of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs and now chief of the liaison section of the Mediterranean Allied Force, received the Legion of Merit "somewhere in Europe" this week, according to a cable received here.

NLRB Takes 'Bit' Players from SPU

(*Continued from page* 1)

original certification was assailed by the producers and SAG as setting up a unit not appropriate for the purposes of collective bargaining.

Admitting that "there is merit in this contention," the Board today held that the performance of bits and parts, as well as stunts and singing, is not the characteristic function of the group comprising the extra players, but rather of the professional actors, consisting of SAG's Class A and Class A Junior members, who customarily perform no extra work.

The new certification excluded from SPU control "all employees who, either directly pursuant to day player, stock, or free-lance contracts, or by adjustment subsequent to being employed originally for extra work, perform stunts, singing, or bits or parts involving a line or lines of essential story dialogue."

The Board noted, however, that in view of union contracts prevalent in the industry it is apparent that the overlapping between the fields of acting and extra work may require members of SPU also to maintain membership in the Guild.

Must Represent All

Taking cognizance of intimations in the record of the possibilities that the union may indulge in reprisals designed to prevent persons who have customarily performed both acting and extra work from continuing to do so, the Board warned that "it is the duty of the exculsive representative of the employees in an appropriate bargaining unit to represent all employees therein without hostile discrimination and with a view to the promotion of their best interests. Should either the Guild or the independents engage in such restrictive practices, or otherwise circumvent the objectives of the Board inherent in this decision," it asserted, "the Board will not regard itself as precluded, upon consideration of the circumstances thus presented, from taking appropriate remedial action, including either a redetermination of the bargaining unit or revocation of the certification herein."

Coast R. C. Record

LOS ANGELES, March 29.—At a final meeting at Biltmore Bowl here today, some 800 leaders of the Red Cross campaign were told that the industry had contributed $705,537, the largest sum ever raised by such a drive.

Greenspan to Irwin

HOLLYWOOD, March 29—Lou Greenspan will join Lou Irwin, Inc., talent agency here, on Monday as executive assistant to the president.

Screen 'Horseshoe' Apr. 3

"Diamond Horseshoe," 20th-Fox, will be tradeshown at all exchange centers on April 3, except in New York and Los Angeles, where the screenings will be April 2.

'Courage' Shown Tuesday

"Two O'Clock Courage," RKO Radio, will be given a trade screening in New York and Los Angeles on Tuesday.

Para., WB Stymied In South Africa

(Continued from page 1)

some months, it was learned here yesterday.

Both companies have been carrying on separate negotiations with the Schlesingers. Paramount has dispatched Clay Hake as its representative in South Africa, while Warners sent Jerome Sutten there to survey the situation with a view to establishing their own exchanges, but, to date, neither company has accomplished this objective.

M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox and United Artists maintain their own exchanges in South Africa, with RKO Radio, Universal, and Columbia continuing to sell through the Schlesingers.

PIC Hears Seventh Loan Drive Leaders

Industry plans for the Seventh War Loan drive were discussed at a meeting yesterday of the Public Information Committee of the industry at the N. Y. Athletic Club. Those addressing the home office advertising-publicity directors on drive plans included: Sam Pinanski, industry chairman; John Hertz, Jr., Francis Harmon and Jerry Zigmond.

The discussions will be resumed at next Thursday's meeting of the PIC.

McCarey Signs Crane

HOLLYWOOD, March 29.—Jimmy Crane, juvenile actor, has been signed by producer-director Leo McCarey for "The Bells of St. Mary's."

State Chairmen for 7th Announced by Pinanski

(Continued from page 1)

state chairmen for the Seventh drive follows:

Alabama, R. M. Kennedy, Birmingham; Arizona, Harry Nace, Phoenix; Arkansas, Claude C. Mundo, Little Rock; Cecil Cupp, Arkadelphia, co-chairmen; Southern California, Charles P. Skouras, Los Angeles; Northern California, George Mann, San Francisco; Colorado, Rick Ricketson, Denver; Connecticut, Henry Needles, New Haven; Herman Levy, New Haven, co-chairmen; Delaware, A. Joseph DeFiore, Wilmington; District of Columbia, Fred F. Kogod, Washington; Florida, J. L. Cartwright, Jacksonville; Georgia, W. K. Jenkins, Atlanta; Idaho, Walter Lee Casey, Bonners Ferry; Illinois, Ed Zorn, Pontiac; Walter Immerman, Chicago, co-chairmen; Indiana, Don Rossiter, Indianapolis; Iowa, A. H. Blank, Des Moines; Kansas, Howard Jameyson, Wichita; Kentucky, Lew Hensler, Lexington.

Also, Louisiana, E. V. Richards, New Orleans; Maine, C. J. Russell, Bangor; Maryland, Frank Durkee, Baltimore; Elmer Nolte, Jr., Baltimore, co-chairmen; Massachusetts, M. J. Mullin, Boston; Michigan (Peninsula), Martin Thomas, Iron Mountain; Michigan (balance of state), Ray Branch, Hastings; James F. Sharkey, Detroit, co-chairmen; Minnesota, John Friedl, Minneapolis; Eastern Missouri, Harry Arthur, St. Louis; Western Missouri, Elmer Rhoden, Kansas City; Mississippi, Burgess Waltmon, Columbus; Arthur Lehmann, Jackson, co-chairmen; Montana, J. A. English, Anaconda; Nebraska, William Miskell, Omaha; Sam Epstein, Omaha, co-chairmen; Nevada, Homer LeBallister, Reno; New Hampshire, Mel Morrison, Dover; New Jersey (Northern), Harry Lowenstein, Newark; Frank Damis, Newark, co-chairmen; New Jersey (Southern), I. Epstein, Philadelphia; New Mexico, George Tucker, Albuquerque; New York (Metropolitan), Irving Lesser, New York City; New York (Albany area), C. J. Latta, Albany; New York (Buffalo area), Max Yellen, Buffalo; North Carolina, H. F. Kincey, Charlotte; North Dakota, M. Cooper, Grand Forks; Ed Kraus, Fargo, co-chairmen.

Also, Ohio (Cleveland area), Meyer Fine, Cleveland; Ohio (Cincinnati area), Maurice White, Cincinnati; Oklahoma, C. B. Akers, Oklahoma City; Oregon, O. J. Miller, Portland; Eastern Pennsylvania, Sidney Samuelson, Philadelphia; Western Pennsylvania, M. A. Silver, Pittsburgh; Rhode Island, Martin Toohey, Pawtucket; Ed Fay, Providence, co-chairmen; South Carolina, Warren Irwin, Columbia; South Dakota, Byron McElligot, Aberdeen; Eastern Tennessee, Kermit Stengel, Nashville; Western Tennessee, M. A. Lightman, Memphis; Texas, R. J. O'Donnell, Dallas; Utah, Tracy Barham, Salt Lake City; Vermont, Frank Vennett, Rutland; Virginia, Hunter Perry, Charlottesville; Frank O'Brien, Richmond, co-chairmen; Washington, Frank Newman, Sr., Seattle; West Virginia, S. J. Hyman, Huntington; Wisconsin, Harold Fitzgerald, Milwaukee; Wyoming, T. E. Knight, Riverton.

Gov. Dewey Signs Rent-Freeze Bill

ALBANY, March 29. — Governor Dewey today signed the DiCostanzo Bill, freezing New York city retail store and office rentals at 15 per cent above their June 1, 1944, levels. The Governor also signed a bill amending the Commercial Rent Control Law.

Coast Guard Film for 7th

Five hundred prints of "Story of a Transport," U. S. Coast Guard's motion picture record of its task in moving thousands of troops to the battle zones, are being distributed by the Treasury Department as a feature of the Seventh War Loan drive.

Copies of the film are also being placed with 16mm. film libraries.

Film Classics Men To Fulfill Pacts

(Continued from page 1)

Film Classics may be participants in a new distributing organization planned by Charles Casanave.

Casanave said yesterday that he understands that the exchange owners who plan to participate in his new company will continue to fulfill their contractual obligation to accept the delivery of some 31 pictures from Film Classics. He said that Film Classics has already delivered six or seven of these pictures and plans to deliver about 12 during the current year. Their participation in the new distribution company being formed would be on a permanent basis and not under an arrangement whereby they undertake to contract for the release of a specified number of films either yearly or in bulk, Casanave said.

WAC Booklet on 6th Is Published Here

"Final Report," a booklet covering the participation of the War Activities Committee of the industry in the Sixth War Loan Drive, has been published by the executive committee, Malcolm Kingsberg, chairman. The booklet augments Kingsberg's overall report, with reports from chairmen of the various territories that comprise the New York area.

Also listed are the names of the 100 managers selected on the basis of the maturity of "E" bonds sold, and the hundred managers whose theatres sold the greatest number of bonds per seat.

Master-clarinetist, Woody Herman, featured with his band of the year, gives out with some of his famous jive in Republic's tune-filled, comedy-packed musical extravaganza, "Earl Carroll Vanities." ADVT.

"Sure crowd-pleaser! Fast-paced comedy to bring a flock of admissions to your boxoffice!"
—*Boxoffice*

"One of the most hilarious offerings of the season. Fast, furious farce comedy is certain to wow them in all situations!"
—*Film Daily*

WORDS! WORDS! WE'VE GOT MILLIONS OF 'EM...

And They All Say The Same Thing—

"Hilarious, rollicking and riotous . . . Small has come up with another film to make customers laugh!"
—*M.P. Daily*

"A hilariously funny picture for the entire family. Its box office career should be quite successful."
—*Showmen's Trade Review*

"Edward Small has given Millions a nifty package of comedy merchandise. The laughs are healthy and frequent."
—*Daily Variety*

"Fast-moving, hilarious farce . . continual laughter of the audience drowned out some of the dialogue!"
—*M. P. Herald*

"Fast, amusing . . . Edward Small seems destined to reap handsome returns with his swiftly-paced, brightly humorous film."
—*Hollywood Reporter*

"Packed with hilarious situations and gags. Should wow audiences!"
—*The Exhibitor*

"BREWSTER'S MILLIONS"

...is a HIT!

Produced just for the HOWLUVIT by EDWARD SMALL

DENNIS O'KEEFE
HELEN WALKER · JUNE HAVOC
EDDIE "ROCHESTER" ANDERSON
GAIL PATRICK · MISCHA AUER

"BREWTER MILLION$"

From the novel by George Barr McCutcheon and Stage Play by Winchell Smith and Byron Ongley. Screenplay by Sidney Harmon, Charles Rogers and Willis Mahoney

Released—with a Million laughs—thru U.A.!

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